おやすみプンプン 4

浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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小学館
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雑誌 45364-13　　小学館

おやすみプンプン ❹

浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

登場人物

小野寺ブンブン
チョコパイ好きのヤングガイ。得意な必殺技は真空波動拳。

小野寺ブンブンママ
ブンブンの母親。前世は天使だったと信じている。若干アル中。

小野寺雄一
ブンブンママの弟。素直になれない年頃。
現在はビデオ屋でアルバイト中。

田中愛子
ブンブンが小学生の時から好きな女の子。

大隈翠
喫茶店で働くフリーター女子。元 看護師。

矢口先輩
バドミントン部の先輩。
チンコが超でかいと下級生に噂されている。

小松っちゃん
ブンブンのクラスメイト。バドミントン部の赤い彗星。

関 真澄
ブンブンの同級生。すぐ怒る。

清水
ブンブンの同級生。すぐ怒られる。

沼田
クラスーのセクシーギャル。好きな食べものはゴマ。

八木
徹一が五年前に働いていた陶芸教室の生徒。

おかっぱの女子高生
八木の娘。母親に軟禁されていると言い、徹一に助けを求める。

鷲尾
雄一の陶芸教室講師時代の同僚。陶芸界期待の新人。

徹一の元カノ
酒好きで悪口が多い以外は、概ね親切で優しい女性。

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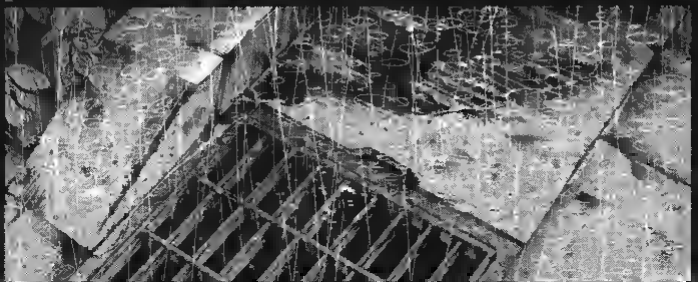
3巻までのあらすじ

ごく普通の中学生、
小野寺ブンブンは、
片想い（？）の女の子・
田中愛子を巡って、
部活の先輩と無謀な
勝負をすることに。
一方、叔父の雄一は、
気になるフリーター女子、
大隈翠に過去を
打ち明け始める。

THE SUDDEN DOWNPOUR GROWING MORE VIOLENT BY THE SECOND DIDN'T GIVE ME ANY TIME TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.

2



...HERE, IT'S HERBAL TEA.
IT'LL HELP CALM YOU DOWN.

ゴ
ゴ
ゴ

AH...
A POWER OUTAGE...

...NNGH!!
MM...
MMNGH!
...HAH!!
HAH...
HAH...!!

MMNN!!
NNN!!
MNN!!
NNN!!
NNN...
MMNN!!

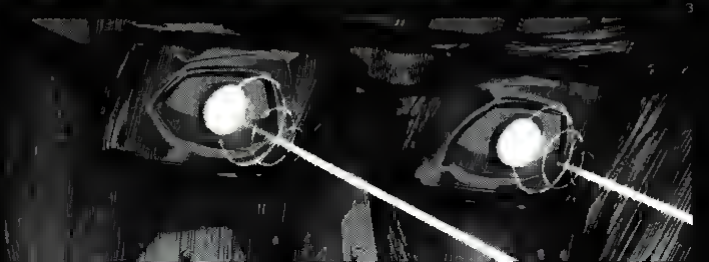
AH.. W...
WAIT...
WAIT A SEC...
S...
STOP!
I SAID STOP!

...I DON'T WANT TO...
TH...
THIS IS...
THIS IS BAD. IT'S NOT RIGHT...
...WHY?

AREN'T YOU DISSATISFIED WITH YOUR LIFE, MR.ONODERA?
AS FOR ME...
YOU'RE ALL I HAVE ANYMORE...
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT IF IT'S ME, I'D FIND HAPPINESS FOR SURE ONE DAY..?
DON'T YOU WANT TO...
RESTART OUR LIVES, YOU AND ME, TOGETHER.

WELL, IT'S...
IT'S JUST TOO SUDDEN ...
AND OUR AGE DIFFERENCE IS TOO WIDE...
HOW DOES THAT...
HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING ...?

...WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?



I...
I...

I'M SORRY BUT...
I CAN'T BE THE ONE...

TO SAVE YOU...

YUU!!
ドンドンドン
ARE YOU THERE!?
I'M COMING IN!

SCANLATED BY HOX

第
36
話

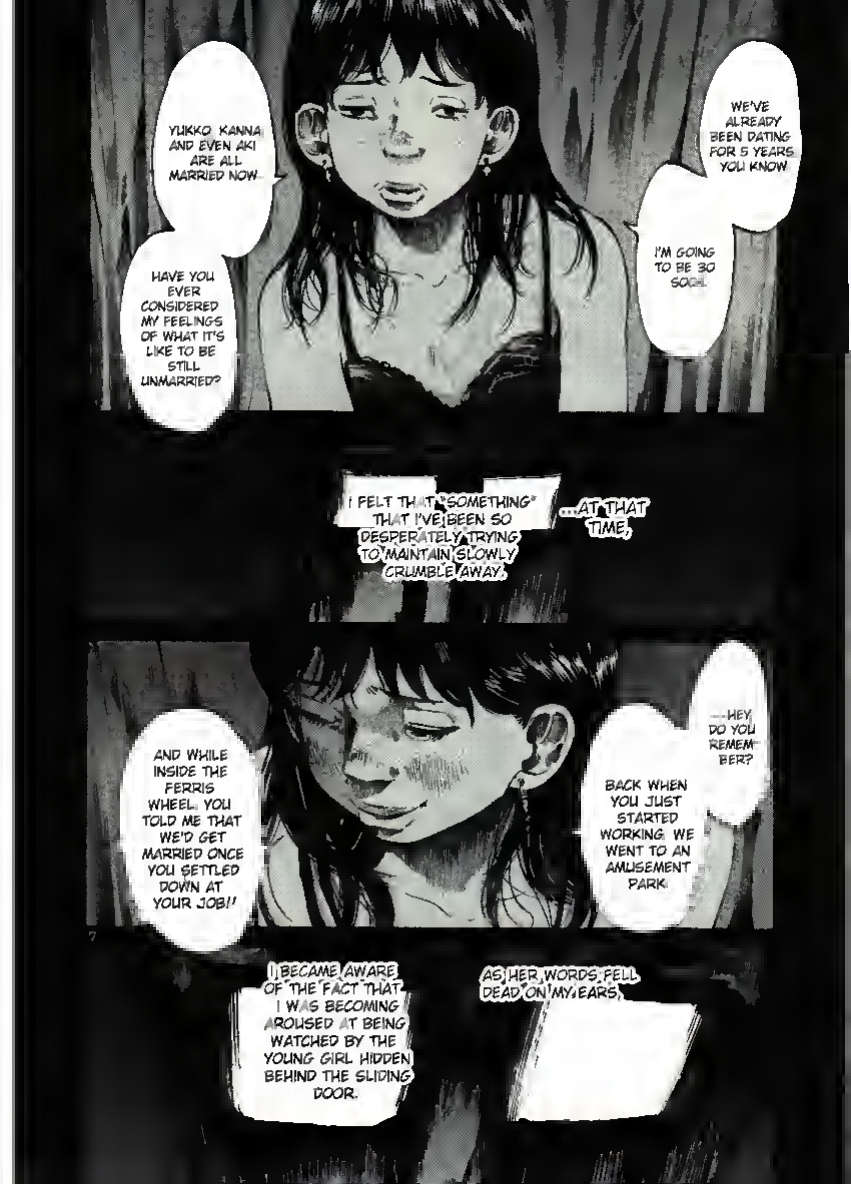
YUU.
I'M COMING IN OKAY?

THAT LAST THUNDER SURE WAS TERRIFY-INGLY LOUD
DAMN IT. EVEN MY UNDER-WEAR IS ALL SOAKED
I WONDER HOW LONG THIS POWER OUTAGE WILL LAST...
UMM...
YOU CAME IN SO SUDDENLY TODAY. IS SOME-THING WRONG—?

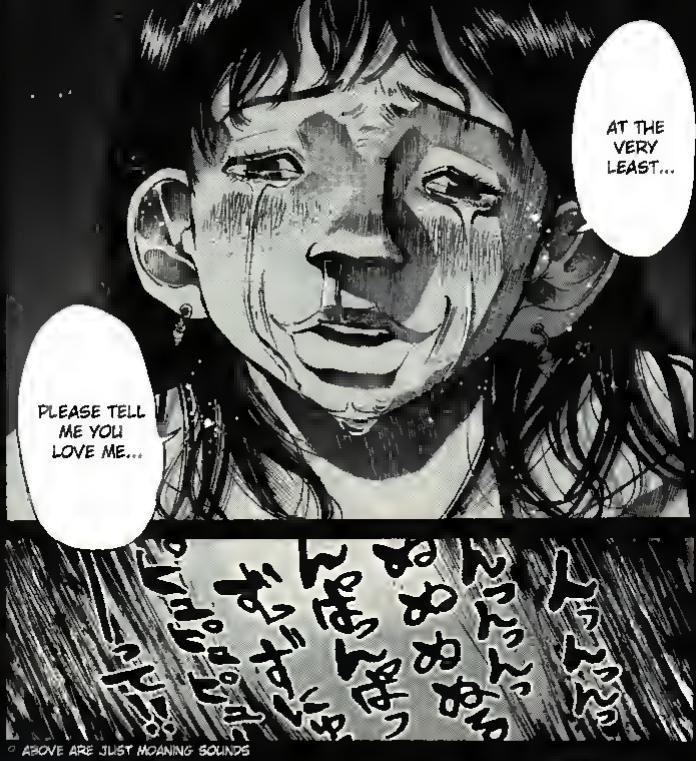
SUD-
DENLY...?
AH...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT...
AH...
AND I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I'D BE COMING TODAY TO TALK
JEEZ... WERE YOU NOT LISTENING?
I EVEN TOLD YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE FREE ON SATURDAY NIGHT
UMM...
SO WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT...?
SORRY...

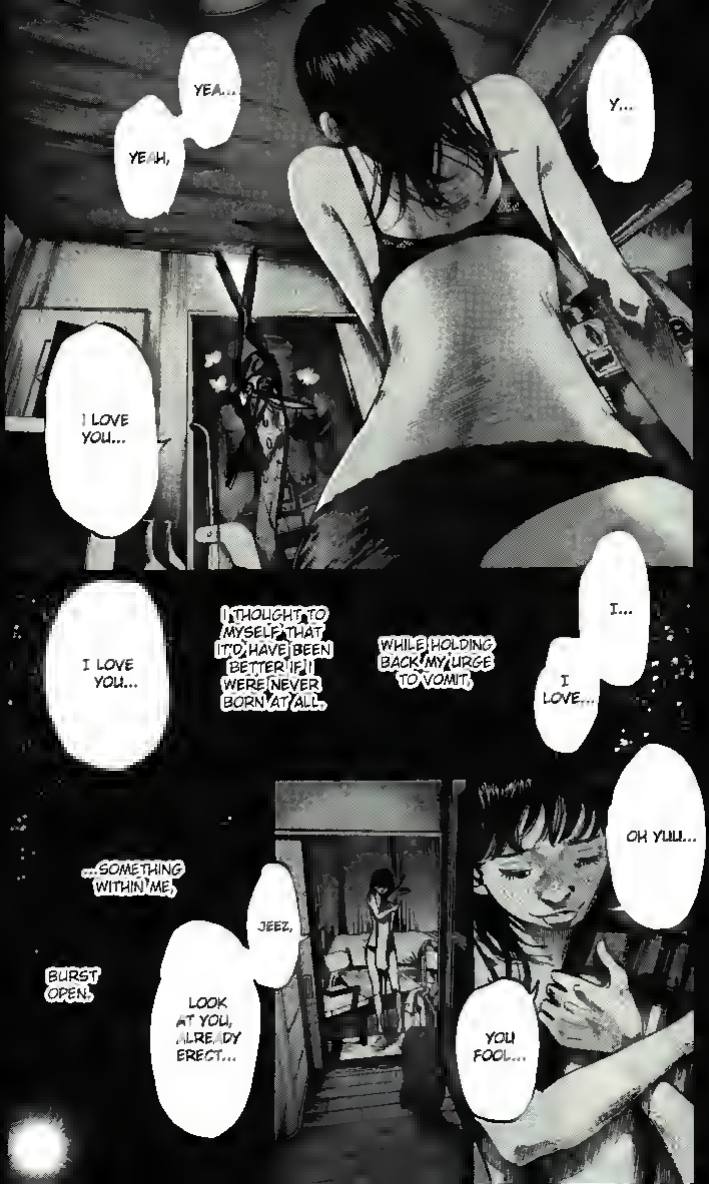
OH, WELL IT'S JUST THAT,
BUT WITH ALL THE RAIN
THE TRAINS MUST HAVE STOPPED RUNNING SO.
MY PARENTS SAID THAT THEY'RE COMING TO YOKOHAMA TODAY.
SO I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE COULD ALL GO TO A CHINESE RESTAURANT TOGETHER.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT SOME OTHER TIME...
AH... HAHA, SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
IN ANY CASE
YOU SHOULD TAKE A BATH RIGHT AWAY OR YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
"SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS?" DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S TREATING IT A BIT TOO LIGHTLY?
...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WERE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT...?

UMM...
WERE WE...
GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT "THAT"?
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
YUU IS SOME-THING WRONG?
DO YOU REALLY DISLIKE,
TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE THAT MUCH?
...YOU KNOW
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE
I...


YUKKO, KANNA AND EVEN AKI ARE ALL MARRIED NOW...
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED MY FEELINGS OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE STILL UNMARRIED?
WE'VE ALREADY BEEN DATING FOR 5 YEARS, YOU KNOW.
I'M GOING TO BE 30 SOON.
I FELT THAT "SOMETHING" THAT I'VE BEEN SO DESPERATELY TRYING TO MAINTAIN SLOWLY CRUMBLE AWAY.
...AT THAT TIME,
AND WHILE INSIDE THE FERRIS WHEEL, YOU TOLD ME THAT WE'D GET MARRIED ONCE YOU SETTLED DOWN AT YOUR JOB!!
BACK WHEN YOU JUST STARTED WORKING, WE WENT TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK.
—HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER?
I BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT I WAS BECOMING AROUSED AT BEING WATCHED BY THE YOUNG GIRL HIDDEN BEHIND THE SLIDING DOOR.
AS HER WORDS FELL DEAD ON MY EARS,

I...
I BELIEVED IN YOUR WORDS...
AND I'VE BEEN...
WAITING FOREVER AND EVER!
LITTLE BY LITTLE, MY CONSCIOUSNESS WAS LED ASTRAY BY THE WHITE UNDERWEAR PEEPING OUT FROM THE LEGS OF THE 16 YEAR OLD GIRL.
AND I TURNED MY ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE WOMAN WHOSE FACE WAS CONTORTED LIKE AN OLD TOMATO.
THE IMAGES OF HER NIPPLES AND PUBIC HAIR PERSISTENTLY DANCED AROUND INSIDE MY MIND.
B...BUT!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS...
I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU INTO THINGS...
BUT STILL...
...AH,
HOW GOOD IT WOULD BE, IF MY HOT MANHOOD COULD PENETRATE THE SECRET DEPTHS OF A GIRL RIGHT NOW!!


AT THE VERY LEAST...
PLEASE TELL ME YOU LOVE ME...
んっんっんっ
んっんっんっ
あぁぁぁぁ
んぽんぽっ
ずっずっ
ぴぴぴぴぴ
ぴ!!
* ABOVE ARE JUST MOANING SOUNDS
あ
AAHH...!
ぬ。。。。。。。
...HEAVEN.

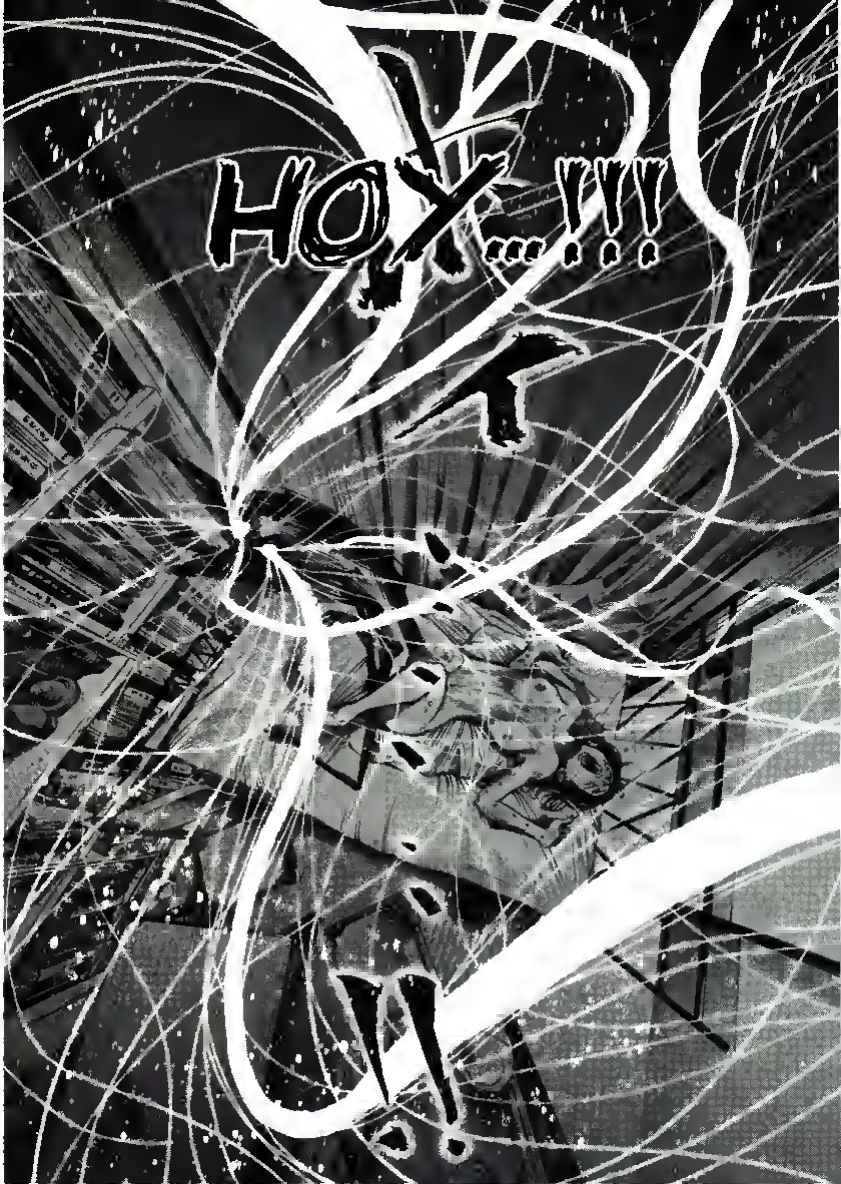

YEA...
YEAH,
I LOVE YOU...
Y...
I LOVE YOU...
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT IT'D HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I WERE NEVER BORN AT ALL.
WHILE HOLDING BACK MY URGE TO VOMIT,
I...
I LOVE...
OH YUU...
...SOMETHING WITHIN ME,
BURST OPEN.
JEEZ,
LOOK AT YOU, ALREADY ERECT...
YOU FOOL...

AHH!!
YUU!
YUU!!
YUU!!
...I THOUGHT THAT IF I'M GOING TO FALL,
ならば
思い切り堕ちるところまで堕ちてやろうと
I MIGHT AS WELL FALL AS LOW AS POSSIBLE...
A...
AMA-ZING!
IT FEELS SO GOOD!

I CAN'T ...!!
HOLD ON...
WHAT!?
WHAT!!
AHH!
AHH!
AHHH!!

僕は
I GOT IT!
かった
THIS MUST BE A DREAM!
は
夢だ!!

きっ、
最初
THAT GIRL MUST HAVE NEVER EXISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AH...
I...
AHH, YUU!
なんて
在しなくて、
目が覚
いつ
戻
AND ONCE I WAKE UP EVERYTHING WILL BE BACK TO NORAML...
I'M...
ら
日常に
んだ……
I'M...
……ねぇ
神
...ISN'T THAT RIGHT? GOD...
I'M CUMM-ING!!!
なんでしょ？
……
...AH, DEAR GOD, DEAR GOD...
TINKLE...


HOY...!!!

1/10

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GOD.

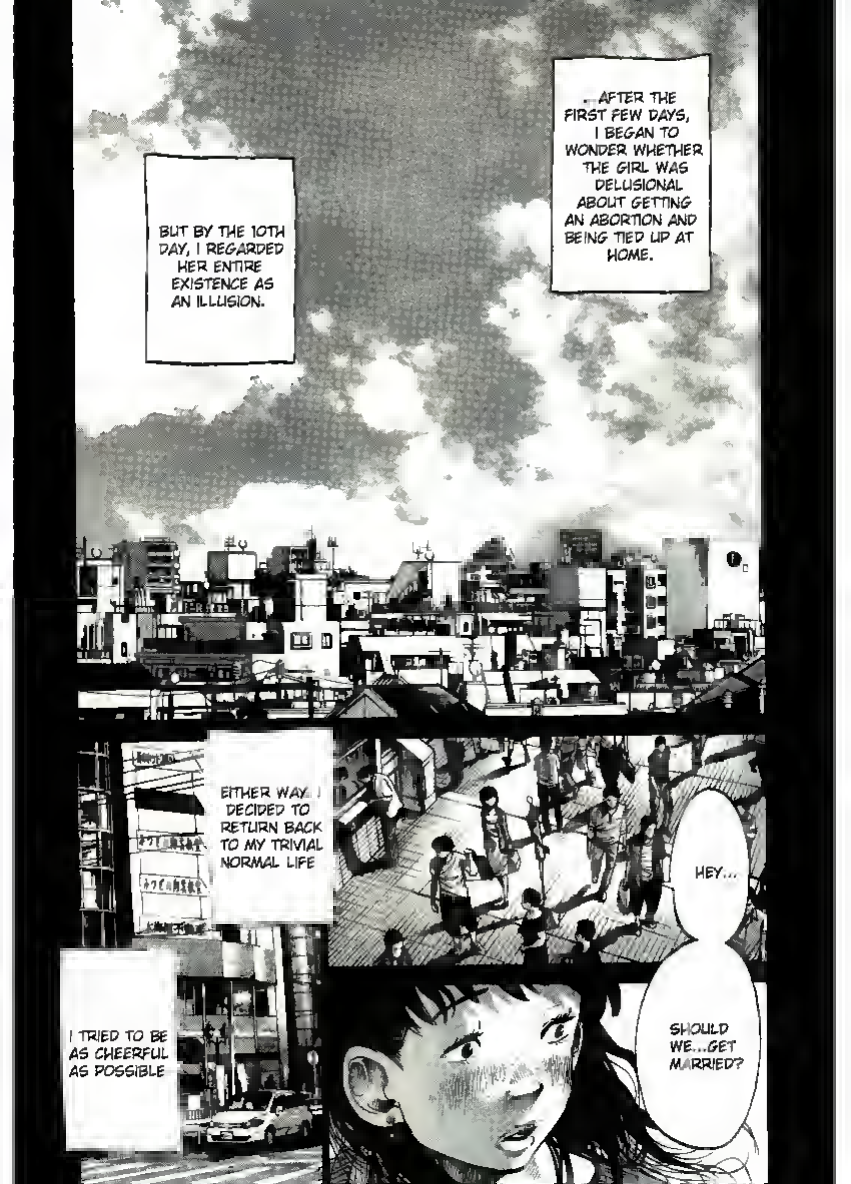
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

SCANLATED BY HOX

第37話

...I NEEDED SOME TIME TO THINK.

AFTER THAT, I TOOK A 2 WEEK BREAK FROM WORK BY LYING ABOUT GOING ON AN OVERSEAS VACATION.


...AFTER THE FIRST FEW DAYS, I BEGAN TO WONDER WHETHER THE GIRL WAS DELUSIONAL ABOUT GETTING AN ABORTION AND BEING TIED UP AT HOME.
BUT BY THE 10TH DAY, I REGARDED HER ENTIRE EXISTENCE AS AN ILLUSION.
EITHER WAY, I DECIDED TO RETURN BACK TO MY TRIVIAL NORMAL LIFE
HEY...
SHOULD WE...GET MARRIED?
I TRIED TO BE AS CHEERFUL AS POSSIBLE

OK, THEN LET US BEGIN.
I, NARUSE FROM THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE "LIVING WITH BEAUTY" WILL BE YOUR INTERVIEWER TODAY.
YOUR PORCELAIN VASE WAS RECENTLY FEATURED AT AN EXHIBIT AND APPRAISED AT A VERY HIGH PRICE.
THAT SUCH AN EXQUISITE PIECE OF ART WAS CREATED BY SOMEONE ONLY 25 YEARS OLD IS UNTHINKABLE...
WAS VERY SHORT-LIVED.
BUT THAT FEELING,
LIMM ...
WHAT?
MR. WASHIO?

MR. ONODERA!!
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG!
HOW WAS MOROCCO?

OH, MR. ONO-DERA!
HOW COULD YOU NOT SAY A WORD TO ME AND GO OFF FOR 2 WEEKS?
I WAS SO WORRIED. I THOUGHT YOU QUIT YOUR JOB OR SOMETHING!
UHH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.
HOW IS YOUR DAUGHTER DOING? DID SHE SAY ANYTHING?

...OH, WELL SHE CAME TO THIS ART CLASS DURING THE WEEK YOU WERE GONE.
SHE WAS ACTUALLY HERE JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO
...I WONDER WHERE SHE WENT OFF TO?

WHAT?
SHE WAS HERE TODAY?

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR LUNCH TOGETHER?
THERE'S A VERY GOOD SHOP THAT OPENED UP IN JIYUUGAOKA.
...I'M SORRY, MRS. YAGI,
I REALLY SHOULDN'T ASK THIS...
AND IF IT'S JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING, I APOLOGIZE BUT...
IS IT TRUE,
THAT YOU TIE UP YOUR DAUGHTER AT HOME?
.....
AND THE THING IS, MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATE IS THE ONE WHO RUNS THAT RESTAURANT!!
IT SEEMS SHE STUDIED OTHER WORLD CUISINES FOR OVER 10 YEARS WORKING IN A HIGH CLASS FRENCH RESTAURANT!!

...MR. WASHIO?
PLEASE ANSWER ME...
DO YOU REALLY TIE YOUR OWN DAUGTHER UP WITH A ROPE?
AND OH MY GOOD-NESS!
THEIR STEW IS JUST FANTASTIC WITH SUCH A MELLOW SMELL!!
I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE IT TOO!!
PLEASE...
ANSWER ME...!!!

AAAA AGGG HHHH HHHH !!!!!
KYAA AAAA AAAA HHHH !!!!!

AAAA
GGGG
GGGG
GGGG
HHHH
HHHH
HHHH
!!!!!
WASHIO!!
IT HURTS !!!
WHAT ARE YOU...!?
IT HURTS, IT HURTS !!!
MRS. YAG!!
PLEASE HANG ON MRS. YAG!!
911?
WE NEED AN AMBU-LANCE...
ONO-DERA!
AND CALL THE POLICE!!
GO...!!

時計店

愛のゆくえ
駐車禁止
駐車禁止

...AH.
THAT'S A LOT OF BLOOD.
IS SHE DEAD?
MY MOTHER.

YOU FUCKING BITCH!!
WAS IT YOU...
WHO PUT HIM UP TO IT...?

...HE'S COMPLETELY HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ME.
AT THAT MOMENT,
I FELT JUST HOW COLD AND FEARSOME
WASHIO...
HAHA,
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING, WHAT A FOOL HE IS.
HER BEAUTIFUL SMILE COULD BE,
SAID HE'D DO ANYTHING FOR ME...
HE WAS A BIT HESITANT AT FIRST BUT...
JUST A SIMPLE FELLATIO CHANGED HIS MIND!!
ARE SO SIMPLE...
HOW FUNNY!!

BUT EVEN SO...
SHE WAS A PERSON...
TO SEEK BEAUTY IS HUMAN.
THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME SHOULD NEVER EVER GET CLOSE TO.
TO BE PLAYED AND TOY AROUND IS HUMAN.
IS ALSO HUMAN.
AND TO BREAK AND DESTROY...

SCANLATED BY HOX

PSHUU!
PSHUU!
PSHUU!
WAS-HIO!!
IF YOU OPEN THE FURNACE WHEN IT'S STILL BURNING
YOU ID!...
STOP, IT'S DANGE-ROUS!
ギィィィ

WELL, THEN ...
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
G...
GOING,
WHERE ...?

WELL...
THAT DOESN'T HAVE,
ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE.
SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE...
GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER ME.

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF AT THAT TIME,

JUST WHAT KIND OF BEING IS GOD.

BUT, WONDERING JUST IN WHAT KIND OF GOD THAT GIRL BELIEVED IN.

NOT OVER THE FACT OF WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT.

TO STILL DESPERATELY CLING ON TO THAT EXISTENCE MAY BE HUMAN.

EVEN IF THAT EXISTENCE CALLED GOD MAY BE A DEMON OR DARK MAGIC.

...ONCE I THOUGHT THAT THE SCENERY SPREADING RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES
SEEMED A BIT MORE DISTORTED AND CROOKED THAN USUAL

I FINALLY REALIZED IT.
WHILE STARING AT THE BACK OF THAT GIRL DISAPPEARING OFF INTO THE MOB OF PEOPLE,
THAT FROM THE MOMENT WE HAD MET,
I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HER.

I FELT THAT IF I CALLED OUT HER NAME THEN,

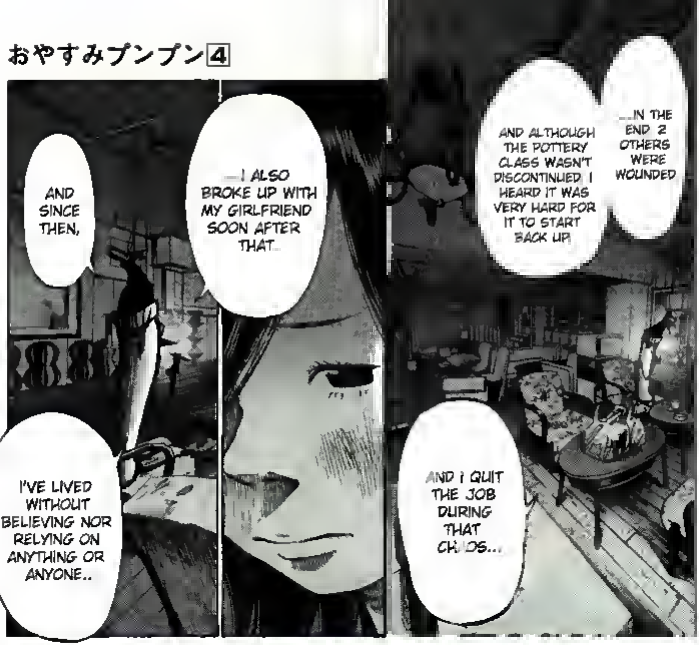
THAT SHE WOULD TURN AROUND AND COME BACK TO ME.

..BUT I,

DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER GIVEN NAME.

ALL HAPPENED 5 YEARS AGO.
THIS...

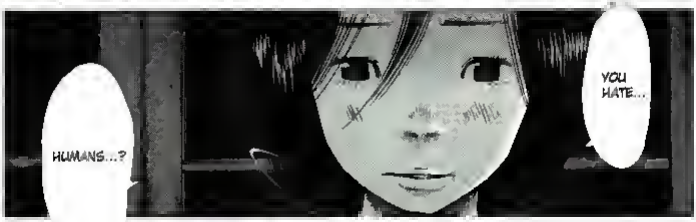
...SATISFIED?
YES


...IN THE END 2 OTHERS WERE WOUNDED
AND ALTHOUGH THE POTTERY CLASS WASN'T DISCONTINUED I HEARD IT WAS VERY HARD FOR IT TO START BACK UP.
...I ALSO BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND SOON AFTER THAT...
AND SINCE THEN,
AND I QUIT THE JOB DURING THAT CHAOS...
I'VE LIVED WITHOUT BELIEVING NOR RELYING ON ANYTHING OR ANYONE..

I...
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND...
THE REASON WHY HUMANS ...
CONTINUE LIVING ON ALL THE WHILE AS OUR INDIVIDUAL EGOS HURT EACH OTHER...

HUMANS ...!!

HUMANS ARE...
SO UGLY AND DETESTABLE!!


YOU HATE...
HUMANS...?

I DESPISE
MYSELF

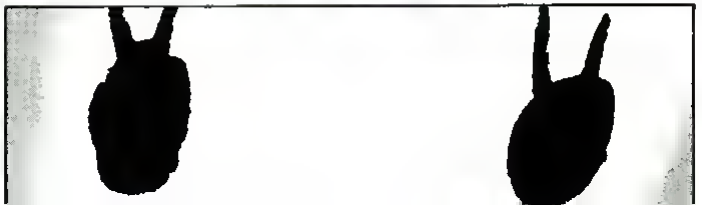
WELL, I DON'T.
I RATHER LIKE YOU, MR. ONODERA

...NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST,
I WILL STILL LIKE YOU.

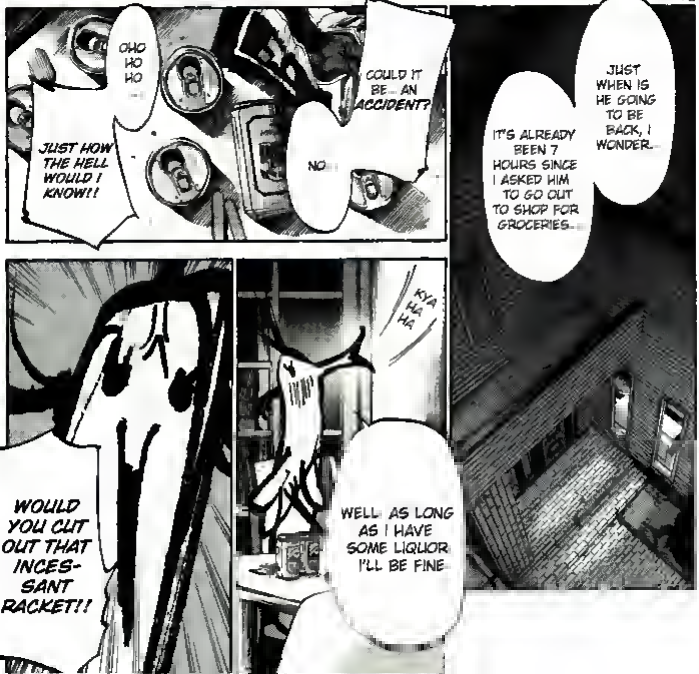
I...
DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO END UP HURTING YOURSELF.

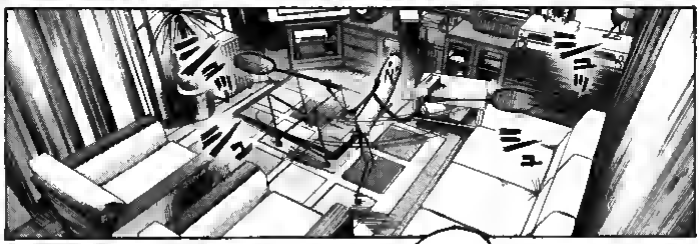
12

SHALL WE GO RIGHT NOW...?
...TO THE PLACE YOU USED TO WORK AT...
TO THAT POTTERY CLASS...



OHO HO HO HO !!!


OHO HO HO...
JUST HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW!!
COULD IT BE... AN ACCIDENT?
NO...
JUST WHEN IS HE GOING TO BE BACK, I WONDER...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN 7 HOURS SINCE I ASKED HIM TO GO OUT TO SHOP FOR GROCERIES...
KYA HA HA!
WELL AS LONG AS I HAVE SOME LIQUOR I'LL BE FINE
WOULD YOU CUT OUT THAT INCES-SANT RACKET!!

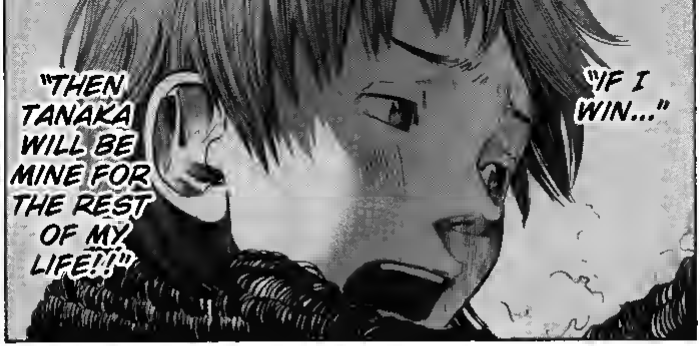


PUNPUN IS PREPARING HIMSELF FOR THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT TOMORROW!!

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE EVEN CHOSEN TO BE A SUBSTITUTE PLAYER RIGHT?

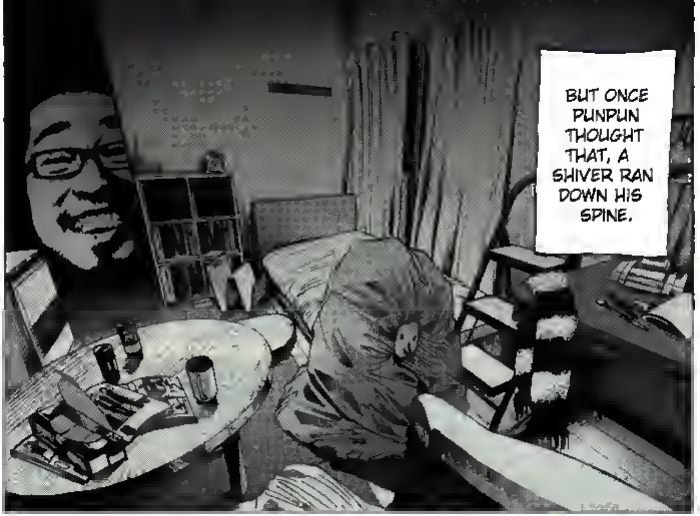
SO IS THERE EVEN ANY MEANING TO PRACTICING RIGHT NOW? HOW ABOUT YOU JUST GO TO SLEEP EARLY?

ALTHOUGH PUNPUN UNDERSTOOD THAT HE NEEDED SOMETHING TO KEEP HIM FROM OVERFLOWING.


"THEN TANAKA WILL BE MINE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!"
"IF I WIN..."

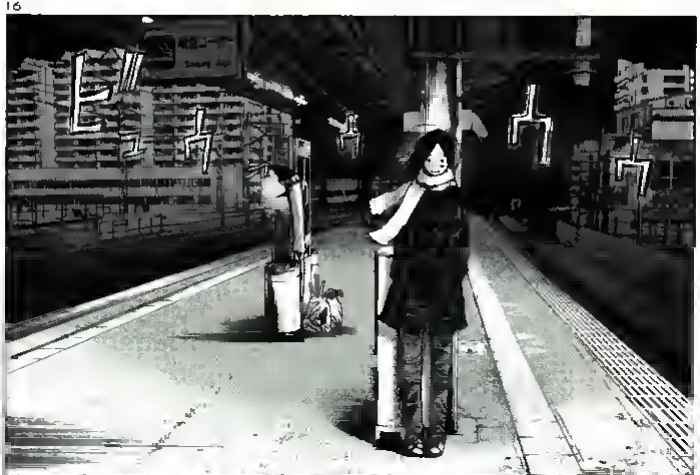
I WON'T HAND OVER AIKO TO SUCH A GUY!!
...DAMN THAT YAGUCHI!!
HE DOESN'T DESERVE ANY RESPECT!!
JEEZ!! WHAT A CAPRICIOUS PERSON HE IS!

"PERHAPS HE'LL BE FORCED TO FORFEIT DUE TO AN INJURY..."
BUT, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO ABOUT IT.



SO PUNPUN STOPPED THINKING ABOUT IT ANY FURTHER.

IN ANY CASE, THAT'D BE UNLIKELY.

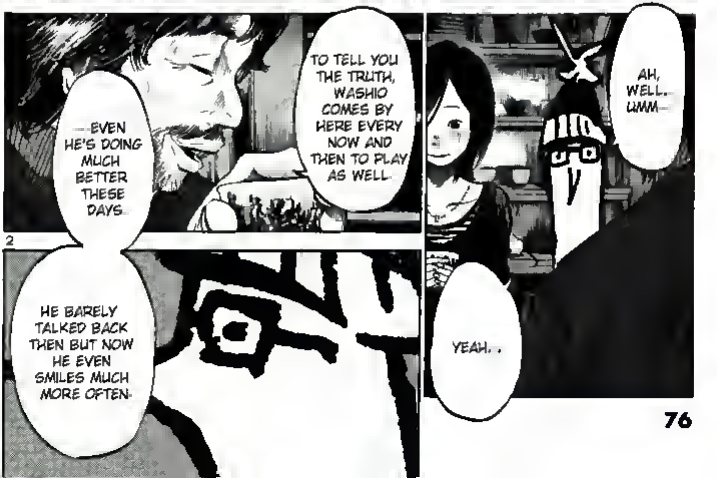


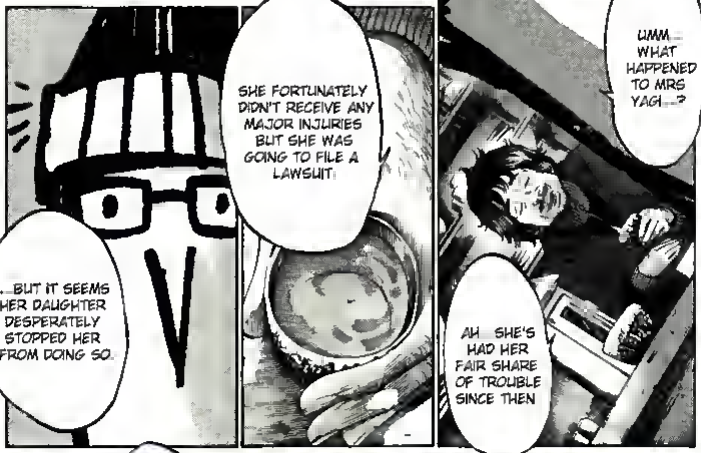
SCANLATED BY HOX

SIGN READS POTTERY ART CLASS

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AFTER SO LONG
I WAS ACTUALLY REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MR. ONODERA
YOU QUIT SO SUDDENLY BACK THEN. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK WHY.

BUT TO THINK YOU'D BRING SUCH A PRETTY GIRLFRIEND ALONG WITH YOU.
IT SEEMS YOU'RE DOING WELL

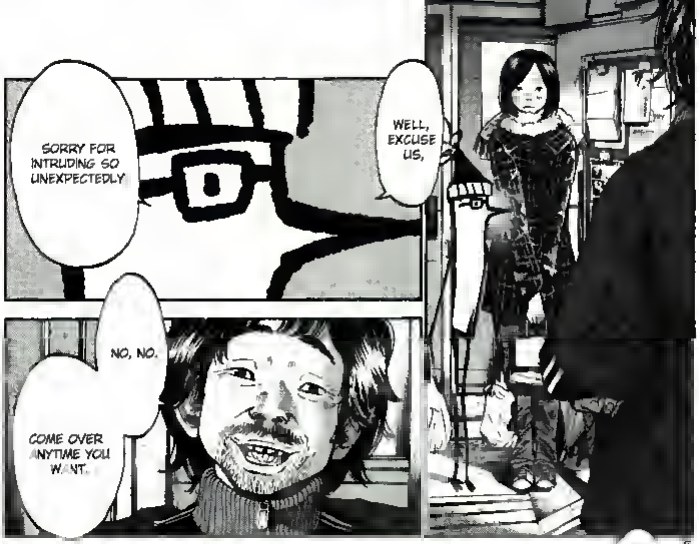

AH, WELL. UMM—
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WASHIO COMES BY HERE EVERY NOW AND THEN TO PLAY AS WELL.
—EVEN HE'S DOING MUCH BETTER THESE DAYS.
YEAH. .
HE BARELY TALKED BACK THEN BUT NOW HE EVEN SMILES MUCH MORE OFTEN.


UMM... WHAT HAPPENED TO MRS YAGI...?
AH... SHE'S HAD HER FAIR SHARE OF TROUBLE SINCE THEN
SHE FORTUNATELY DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY MAJOR INJURIES BUT SHE WAS GOING TO FILE A LAWSUIT.
...BUT IT SEEMS HER DAUGHTER DESPERATELY STOPPED HER FROM DOING SO.

...HUH?
YOU KNOW, THE GIRL THAT MRS. YAGI BROUGHT ALONG ONE DAY!
THAT PALE GIRL WITH STRAIGHT HAIR!!

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER REASON WAS THOUGH...
AH, THAT'S RIGHT
I HEARD FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS THAT SHE'S CURRENTLY STUDYING AT AN ART SCHOOL IN KYOTO.

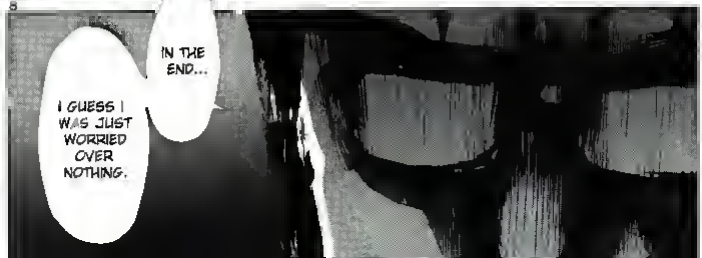
UMM... THIS IS A GOOD TEA CUP.
UHH... NO...
...WHAT'S WRONG?
...THAT'S SOMETHING WASHIO MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 5 YEARS...
IT'S A BIT SMALL AND KIND OF CRUDE BUT IT'S VERY NICE RIGHT?
HAHA, SO YOU LIKE IT, EH?


SORRY FOR INTRUDING SO UNEXPECTEDLY
WELL, EXCUSE US,
NO, NO.
COME OVER ANYTIME YOU WANT.

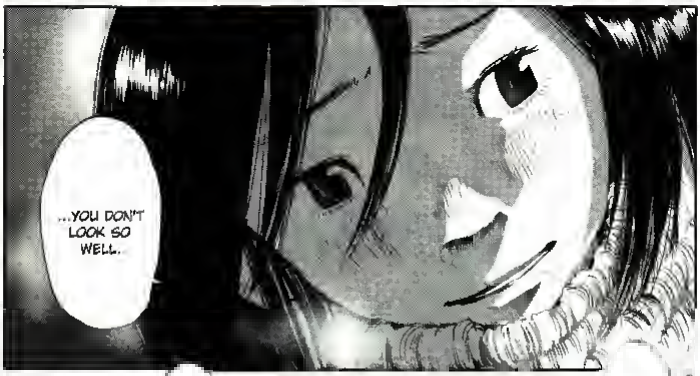
I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AGAIN
AND IF... YOU EVER WANT TO START DOING POTTERY AGAIN...

UMM...
IT SEEMS,
EVERY-THING,
TURNED OUT WELL, AFTERALL.

YEAH...
LOOKS LIKE IT...
IT REALLY TURNED OUT WELL...


IN THE END...
I GUESS I WAS JUST WORRIED OVER NOTHING.

BUT...
THAT'S NOT THE IMPORTANT THING
YOU CAN'T ERASE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST AND I CAN'T CHANGE MY NATURE SO EASILY...
EVEN IF MY FEARS AND WORRIES WERE GROUNDLESS THIS TIME...
I MIGHT REPEAT WHAT I DID ON SOMEONE ELSE ONE DAY...!!


...YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL.

IT'S QUITE CHILLY TODAY SO...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME BACK TO MY CAFE ONE MORE TIME BEFORE HEADING HOME?
WELL...
SINCE I CAME OUT ALL THE WAY TO OFUNA, I WAS THINKING I MIGHT AS WELL AS STOP BY MY PARENT'S HOME...
TAXI
タクシー
のりば

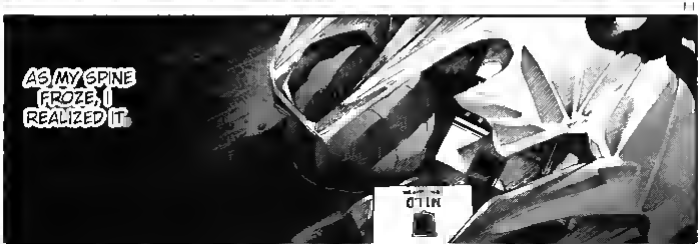
HAHA
HAHA...
UHH, MIDORI, YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING A BIT...
THAT'S RIGHT, I LEFT MY MOPED AT YOUR SHOP...
COULD YOU...
I'M... SORRY FOR FORCING YOU INTO DOING A LOT OF THINGS TODAY.

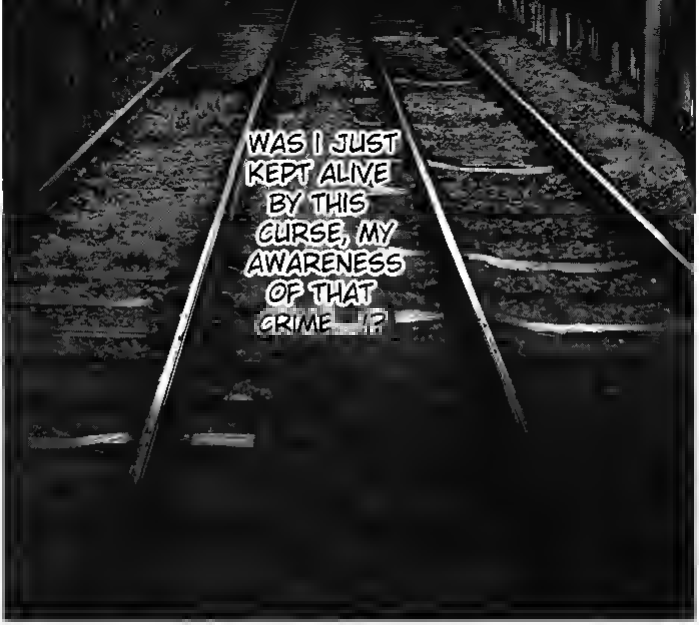
NO... SAME HERE
THANK YOU.
FOR LISTENING TO ME.

I FEEL SOMEWHAT BETTER NOW!!

...THAT WAS A LIE.

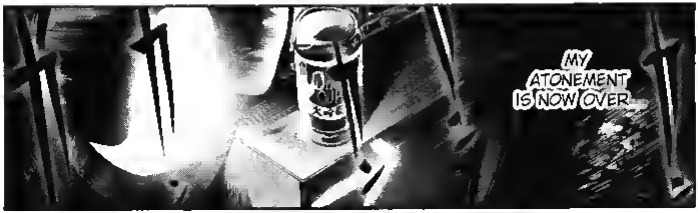
STEMMED FROM MY SENSE OF GUILT ABOUT THE PAST, WITHOUT A DOUBT.
THE GRIEF AND TORMENT THAT I WAS BURDENED WITH FOR THESE PAST 5 YEARS,




WAS I JUST KEPT ALIVE BY THIS CURSE, MY AWARENESS OF THAT CRIME...!?

TO SEARCH FOR A REASON TO LIVE WHILE SUFFERING SO MUCH OVER THE CRIME OF JUST ONE PERSON...!!
WHAT IF MY REASON FOR LIVING HAD BEEN...
MY SENSE OF GUILT HAD TAKEN OVER ME TO THAT EXTENT...

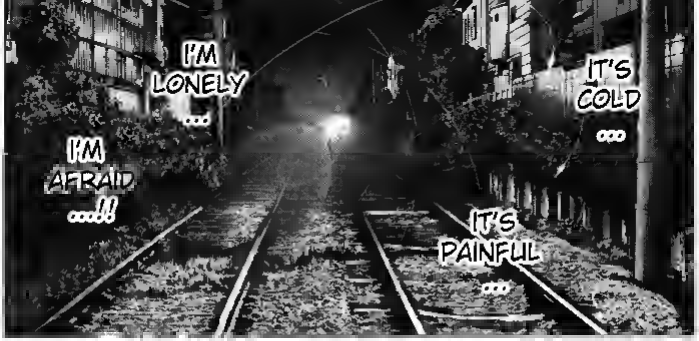
HAS NOTHING ANYMORE ...
THE ME OF NOW,

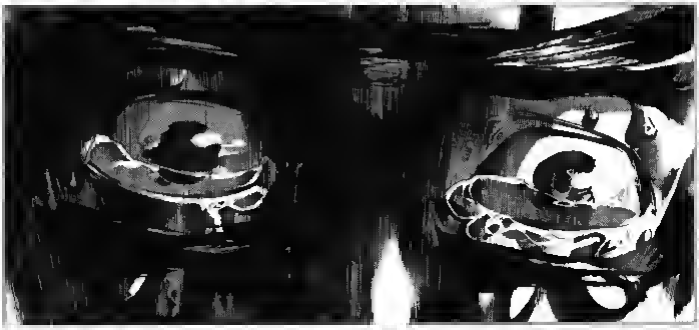

MY ATONEMENT IS NOW OVER.

THE ONLY THINGS LEFT ARE...

A FEAR OF THE INEVITABLE EMPTY FUTURE.
A MEANINGLESS LIFE AND,

THE KANJI USED FOR "THING" HERE IS GOD


I'M LONELY ...
IT'S COLD ...
I'M AFRAID ...!!
IT'S PAINFUL ...

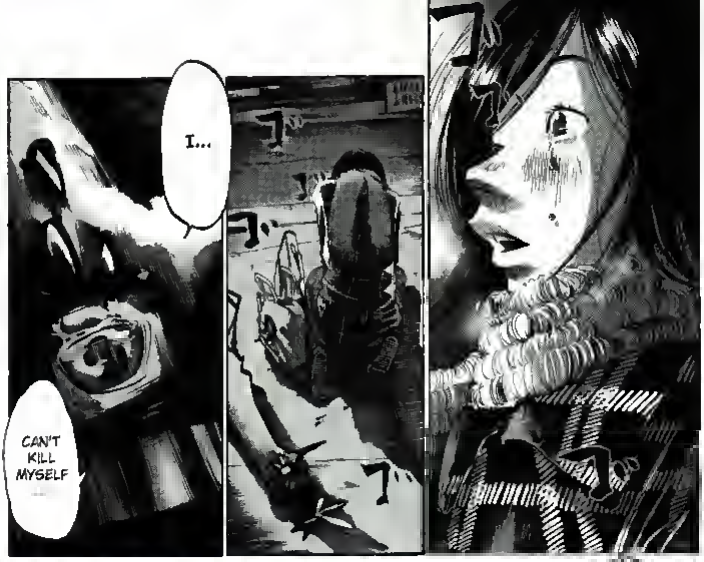


...I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE...

YOU
...

IDIOT...!!

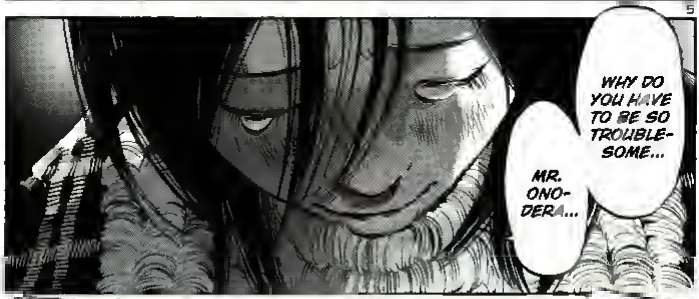
SCANLATED BY HOX


I...
CAN'T KILL MYSELF

I JUST CAN'T DO IT...!!
I CAN'T KILL MYSELF!

uuu...
uuu...
uuu...

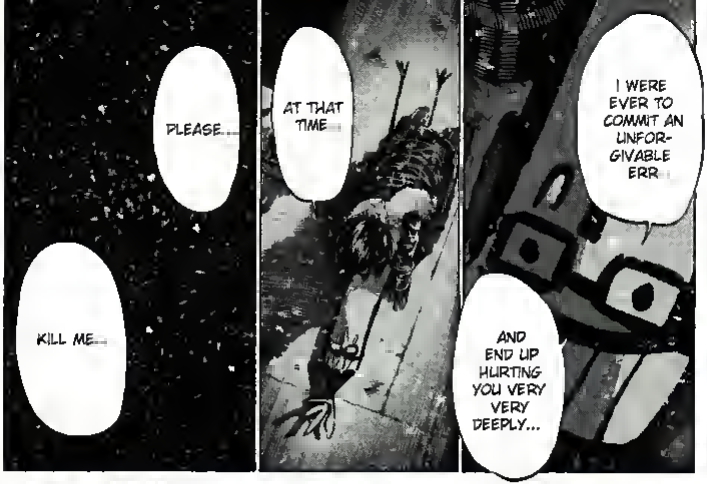
HELP...
HELP ME...
MMF ...
SAVE ME...


WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO TROUBLE-SOME...
MR. ONO-DERA...

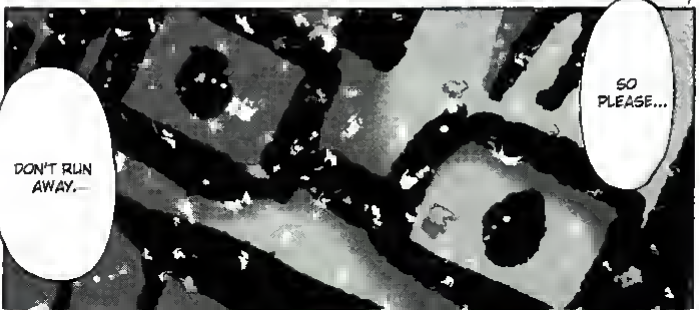
HOGYA!!
HOGYA AAAA!!

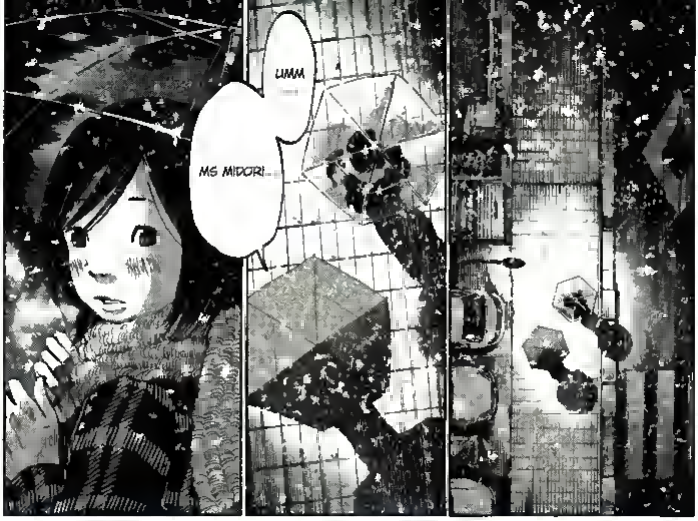
DON'T EVER LEAVE ME...
SO JUST ...
THEN...
IF... IF MAYBE...

OK...!!
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WISH...!!

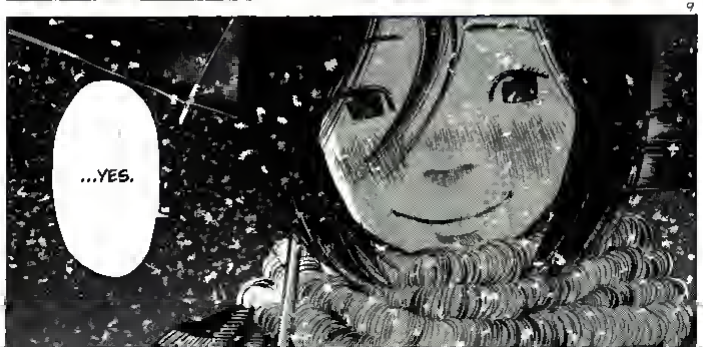

PLEASE...
KILL ME...
AT THAT TIME...
I WERE EVER TO COMMIT AN UNFOR-GIVABLE ERR
AND END UP HURTING YOU VERY VERY DEEPLY...

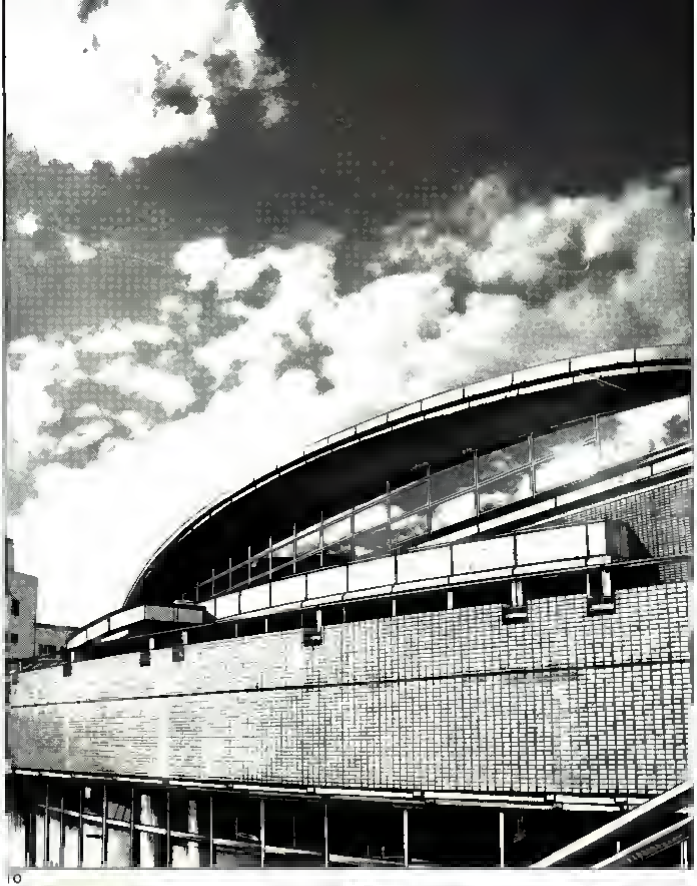
IF THAT TIME EVER COMES TO BE I PROMISE TO KILL YOU.
ALRIGHT.


DON'T RUN AWAY...
SO PLEASE...


UMM...
MS MIDORI...

...I LIKE YOU.


...YES.



10

PREFECTURAL BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

DID YOU SEE KOMATSU'S MATCH THIS NOON?
AFTER THE 2ND SET, HIS OPPONENT STARTED CRYING
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A MATCH
IT'S CRAZY, MAN. HE'S INVINCIBLE
THE ONLY OTHER PERSON STILL REMAINING FROM OUR SCHOOL IS YAGUCHI

YAGURA'S NEXT OPPONENT IS...
AT HIS LAST SCHOOL HE WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE REP PLAYERS FOR THE TOURNAMENT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ONLY A 1ST
A STUDENT THAT RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO NISHINAKA CALLED MUSHIYAKOUJI
AHAHA, BUT EVEN IF HE WINS HERE HE'LL HAVE TO FACE KOMATSU FOR 1ST PLACE

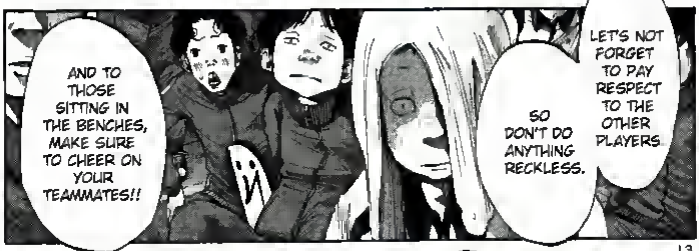
I FEEL SORRY FOR YAGUCHI.
HE'S FINISHED.

PUNPUN WAS NOW AS CONFIDENT AS THE DEVIL.

JEEZ, I WORRIED OVER NOTHING!

12

AH,
EVEN THOUGH,
YAGUCHI OR KOMATSU WILL END UP BEING THE SINGLES CHAMPION,

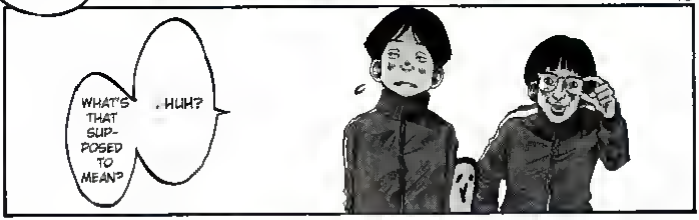

LET'S NOT FORGET TO PAY RESPECT TO THE OTHER PLAYERS.
SO DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS.
AND TO THOSE SITTING IN THE BENCHES, MAKE SURE TO CHEER ON YOUR TEAMMATES!!

ALRIGHT, DISMI-SSED!

HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG, YAGUCHI?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
...WELL DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH SINCE KOMATSU IS YOUR OPPONENT.
YOU CAN STILL BE THE RUNNER-UP WINNER...

KOMATSU, GOOD LUCK!
PUNPUN WANTED TO JUST GO HOME ALREADY WITHOUT SEEING THE MATCH AND EAT SOME CHOCOPIES ALREADY.
YAGUCHI DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN THE BEST CONDITION.
SO CRUSH HIM QUICKLY, ALRIGHT?
SHUT UP.
YOU GUYS ONLY SAY STUPID THINGS BEFORE A MATCH.
THE VICTORY I SEEK IS SOMETHING REFINED ATTAINED FROM OVERCOMING THOSE TRIVALTIES

15

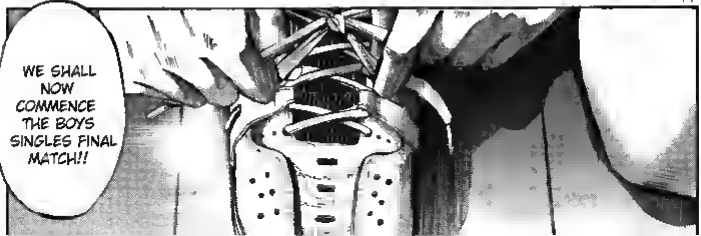

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

...AGHH!
WHATEVER! IT DOESN'T REALLY CONCERN US WHICH ONE OF THEM WINS
I MIGHT EVEN JUST GO HOME WITHOUT SEEING THE FINAL MATCH
SCREW THIS.

SCREW IT ALL.

"...AIKO'S HERE!!"

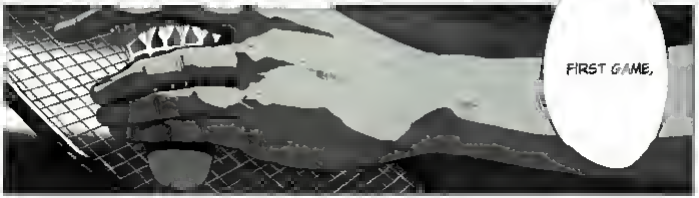
AIKO IS LOOKING
OVER HERE!!


WE SHALL NOW COMMENCE THE BOYS SINGLES FINAL MATCH!!

PLAYERS!!
TO THE CENTER COURT PLEASE!

SCANLATED BY HOX

00
小松
00
前半 休憩 後半 延長
矢口
00
00


FIRST GAME,

LOVE ALL
PLAY!!

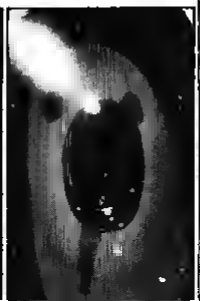
PUNPUN...

FOUND HIMSELF UNABLE TO MOVE EVEN A SINGLE MUSCLE FOR SOME REASON.

STARED SO INTENTLY AT AIKO'S EYES.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME PUNPN,

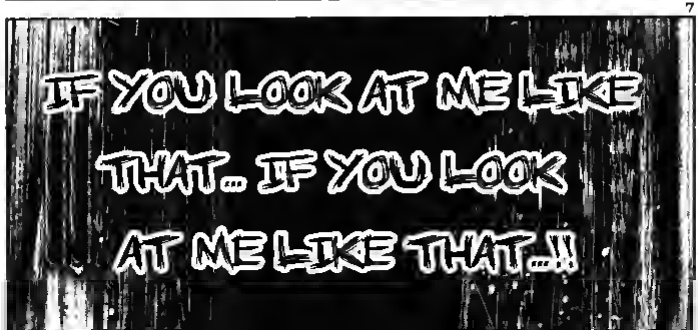
AS HE STARED AT HER ROUND BEAUTIFUL EYES, PUNPUN WONDERED IN WHAT WAY WAS HIS FORM REFLECTED IN IT.

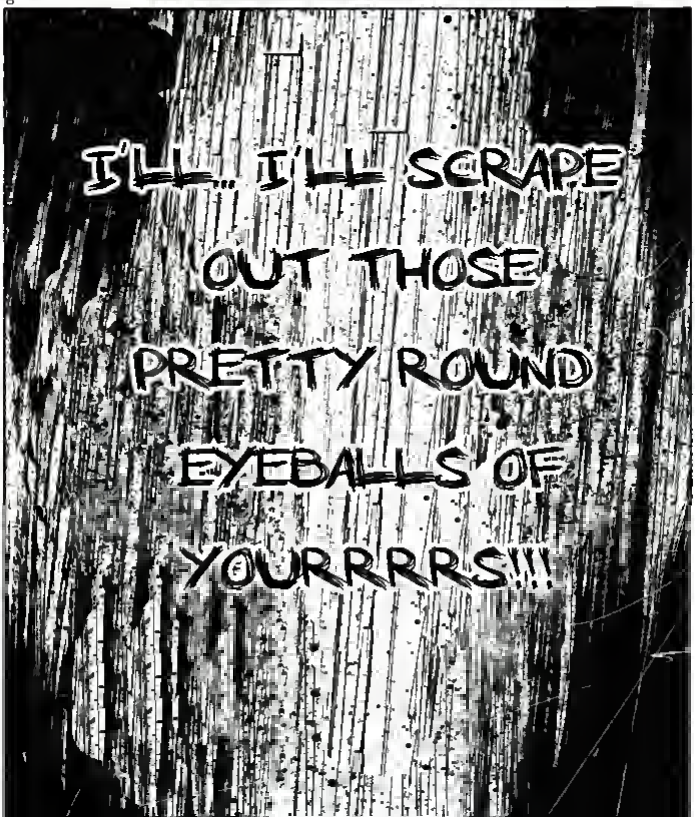


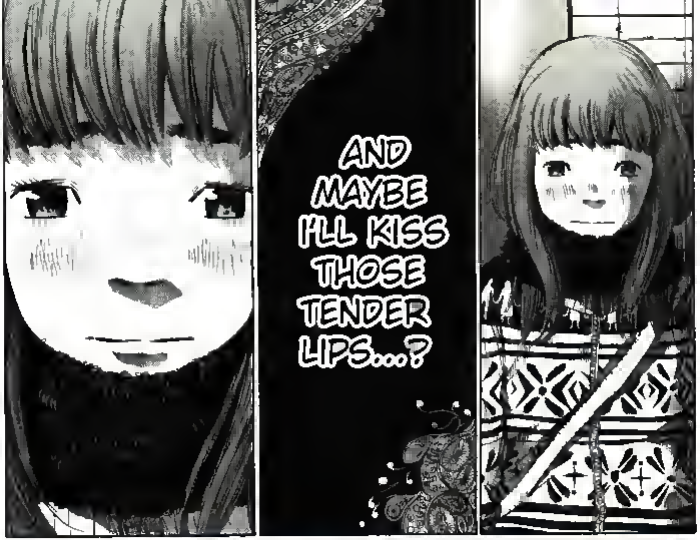
SHE'S STILL LOOKING
OVER HERE!!

SHE'S STARING REALLY
HARD FOR SOME REASON!!!

OUR POOR PUNPUN WAS HELPLESS IN FRONT OF AIKO.
BUT WITH PUNPUN TRYING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT JUST TO CONTROL HIS SHAKING KNEES
PUNPUN DIDN'T KNOW WHY BUT HE FELT LIKE RUNNING AWAY!

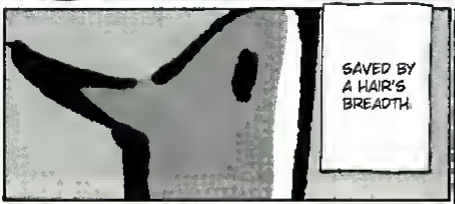

IF YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT... IF YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...!!

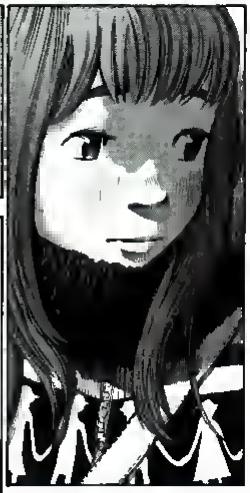

I'LL... I'LL SCRAPE
OUT THOSE
PRETTY ROUND
EYEBALLS OF
YOURRRRS!!!



BELOW ARE SCREAMING SOUNDS

...HUH?
IT'S TANAKA AND YAMATA!
WHY ARE YOU GUYS HERE?


SAVED BY A HAIR'S BREADTH.



TO

PUNPUN QUICKLY TURNED THE SITUATION AROUND AND WAS NOW PLAYING IT COOL!! AS EXPECTED FROM OUR DEAR PUNPUN!!

DIDN'T THE MATCH ALREADY START?
YEAH, YEAH.
I GOT IT, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO SEE YAGUCHI?

TANAKA WILL BE MINE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!
AT THE TOURNAMENT NEXT WEEK, IF I WIN...

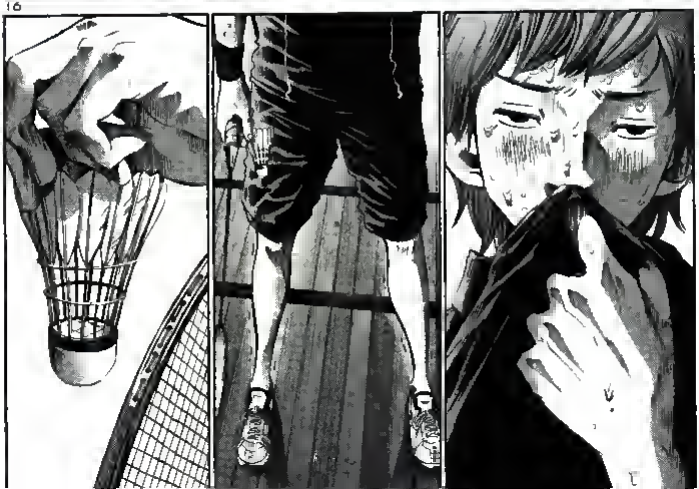
PUNPUN THOUGHT THAT IF MT FUJI WERE TO EXPLODE RIGHT NOW, HE WOULDN'T MIND AT ALL.

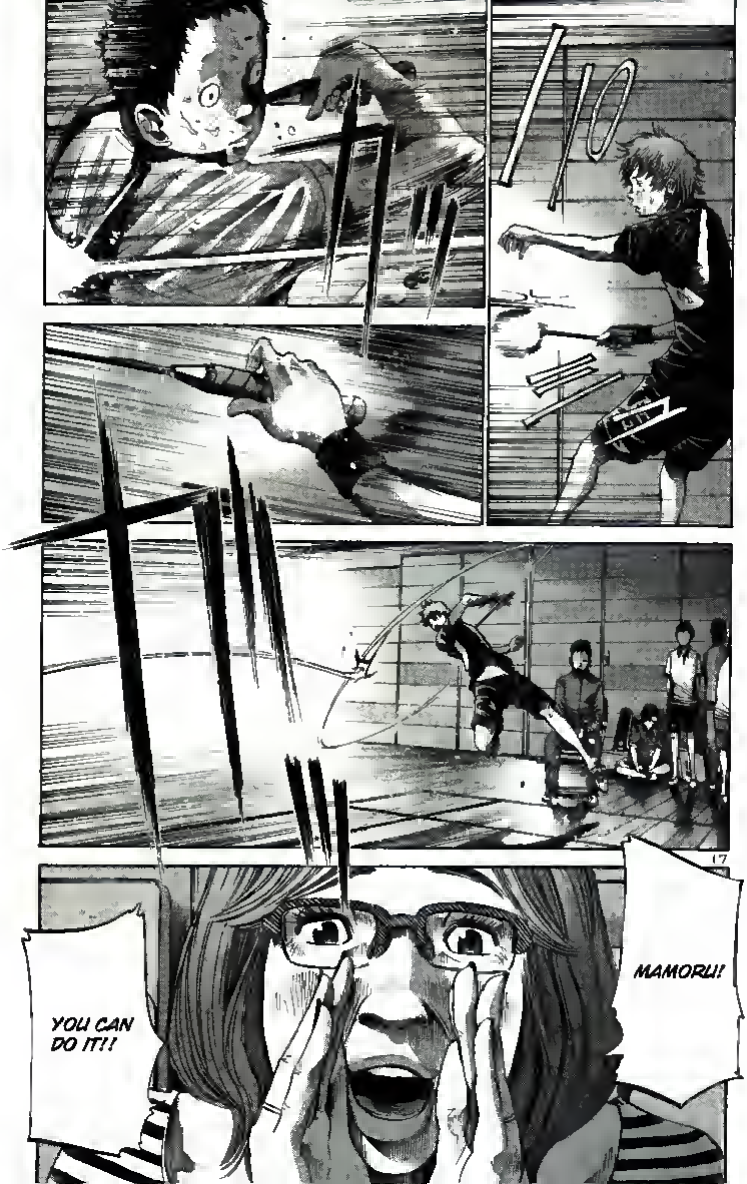
SHOCK

...NO WAY.
KOMATSU
14:25
03
前半 休憩 後半 延長
08

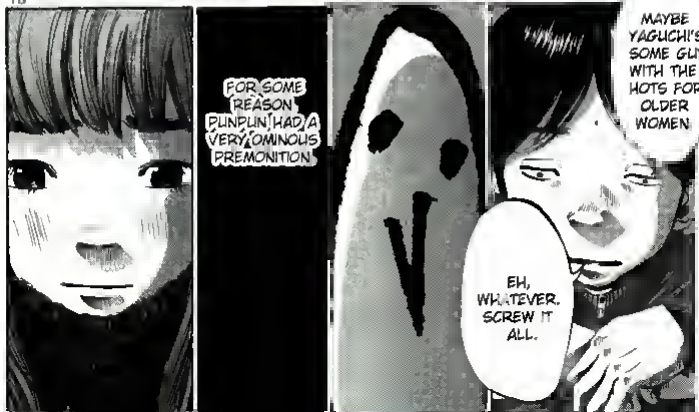
ANYBODY WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YAGUCHI WAS GOING TO GET CREAMED...
...AH, MY BAD.
AND HE ALREADY TOOK 1 SET!!
YAGUCHI HAS THE LEAD
松
14:25
矢口
03
09

HOW
WHH
AAA
AAA
!!!?

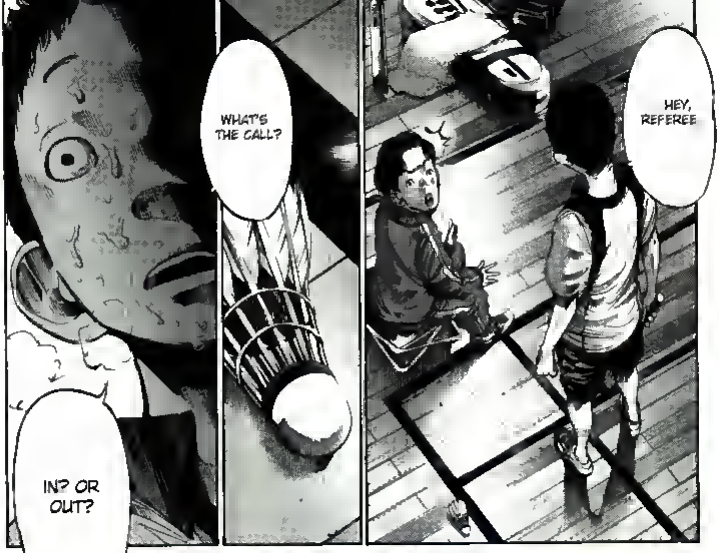


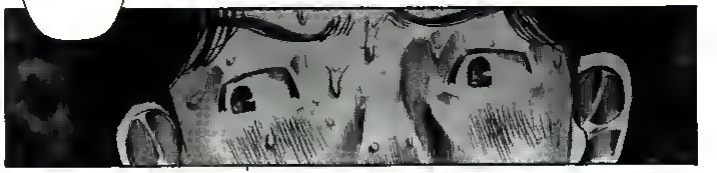

MAMORU!!
YOU CAN DO IT!!

IS THAT YAGUCHI'S MOM?
小松
14:2
矢口


FOR SOME REASON, PUNPUN HAD A VERY OMINOUS PREMONITION.
MAYBE YAGUCHI'S SOME GUY WITH THE HOTS FOR OLDER WOMEN.
EH, WHATEVER. SCREW IT ALL.

HE WONDERED IF MAYBE NOTHING IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE WAS DESTINED TO TURN OUT FAVOURABLY FOR HIM.
小松
888
ドュッ
ぱっちん


HEY, REFEREE.
WHAT'S THE CALL?
IN? OR OUT?



...HE WAS SURE THAT YAGUCHI WOULD WIN AND, ON THE WAY HOME, HE'D BE KISSING AIKO.
MAYBE IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, THEY'D EVEN END UP HAVING SEX IN HIS ROOM.
20

AH, KOMA-TSU
HOW PATHETIC FOR HIM TO BE ARGUING OVER A SINGLE POINT.
HE SHOULD HAVE NEVER AGREED TO THAT BET.
...YES. IF THINGS WERE GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS,
WHAT, IN!!??
WERE YOU EVEN LOOKING!

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF MY BEAUTIFUL WINS!!?
THAT WAS AN OUT YOU GOD-DAMNED PATHETIC IDIOT!

IT WAS OUT.

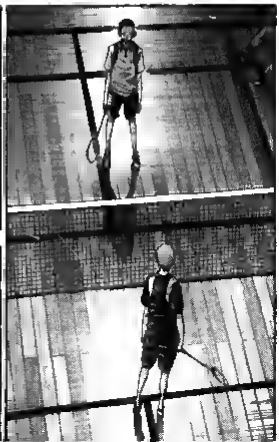
IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU FORGOT! I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER MANY PEOPLE BACK FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL EITHER!!

"TO BE HONEST, I MADE A BET ON YOU ON A BADMINTON MATCH BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. I WONDER HOW THINGS WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT IF I LOST? HAHAHA... DO YOU STILL REMEMBER A GUY CALLED ONODERA?

...YES. MANY YEARS LATER, THE ALWAYS COOL-LOOKING YAGUCHI WILL TELL AIKO THIS ON THE DAY BEFORE THEIR MARRIAGE.

HE WAS SURE THAT HE'D CRY A LOT AS SOON AS HE WAS HOME.

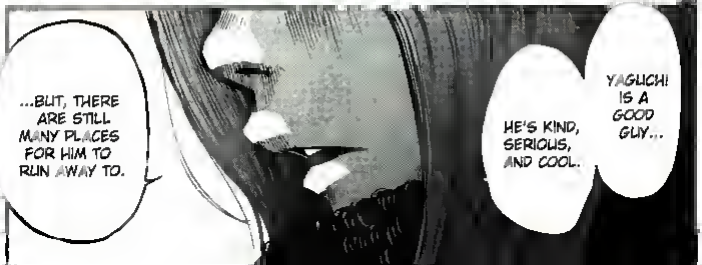
PUNPUN WAS VERY SADDENED BY THIS.

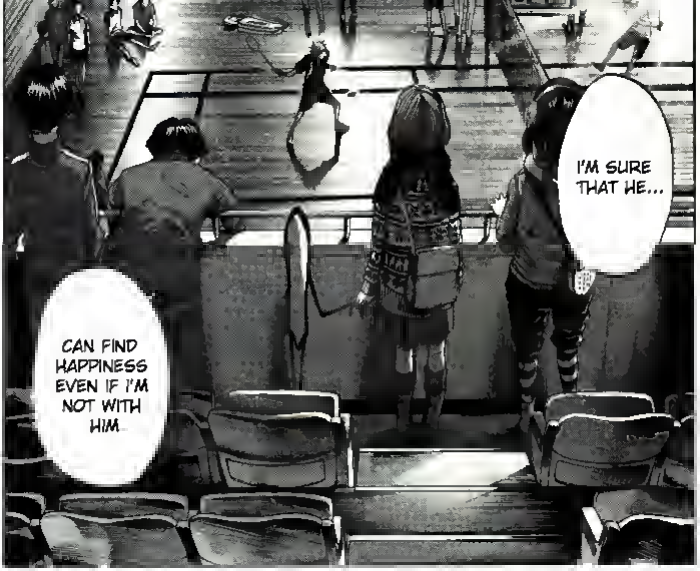


...I WONDER WHY IT IS,
THAT OTHER PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE WITH OTHERS...?

I THINK THAT TO SEEK OUT LOVE EVEN WHEN YOU ALREADY HAVE A NICE FAMILY IS BEING GREEDY.

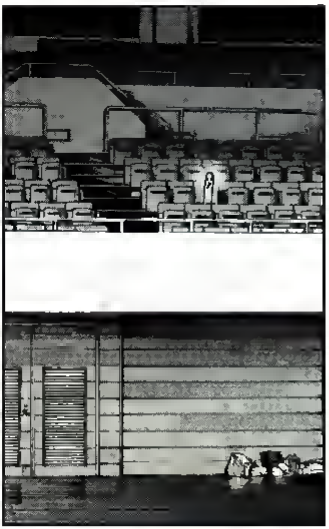
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LIKE ANOTHER PER...
YOU CAN NEVER BE WITH THAT PERSON FOREVER.
...BUT I DISLIKE THAT.
I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO THROW AWAY ALL ELSE. I JUST WANT YOU TO LOOK AT ME


YAGUCHI IS A GOOD GUY...
HE'S KIND, SERIOUS, AND COOL.
...BUT, THERE ARE STILL MANY PLACES FOR HIM TO RUN AWAY TO.


I'M SURE THAT HE...
CAN FIND HAPPINESS EVEN IF I'M NOT WITH HIM.

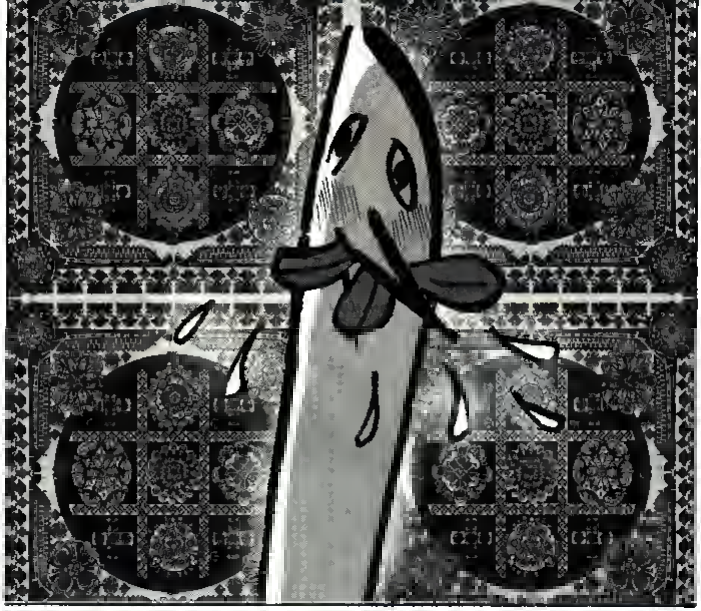
IN THE END...
I'M ALL ALONE AGAIN.

PUNPUN,
YOU UNDER-STAND MY FEELINGS, DON'T YOU?



SCANLATED BY HOX

IN THE END...
I'M ALL ALONE AGAIN.
PUNPUN,
YOU UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS DON'T YOU?
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE UNDERSTOOD OR NOT, THE WARMTH OF AIKO'S HAND LED PUNPUN UNEXPECTEDLY...!!



TO BLISS...!!

PUN-PUN.
CAN YOU THROW AWAY YOUR FAMILY, YOUR DREAMS,
AND ALL THINGS IMPORTANT TO YOU FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONE YOU LOVE?
HA...
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE JUST A COWARD

...BUT,
I CAN. IF IT'S FOR SOMEONE I TRULY LOVE, I CAN THROW IT ALL AWAY.

I...
SEE THE SAME DREAM OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
A DREAM IN WHICH I'M WAITING FOR A PERSON FOR SO LONG.

I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE BY A WATERFRONT IN THE DARK
WAITING AND WAITING, FOR MANY MANY YEARS
BUT THEN, I REALIZE SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN STARING AT ME
AND I RUN, DRAGGING MY FEET ALONG, TO THE PERSON WHO I THINK IS MY MOTHER THOUGH I BARELY REMEMBER HER
...BUT THEN WHEN I LOOK CAREFULLY, I REALIZE IT WAS JUST A REFLECTION OF MYSELF IN THE WATER.
AND THEN I FEEL SO LONELY—
AND I WAKE UP.
...I GET DEPRESSED WHENEVER I THINK
THAT MY DYING MOMENT IS GOING TO BE THAT LONELY

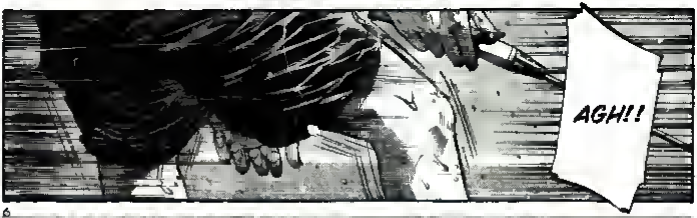
DO YOU REMEMBER?
OF THE TIME WHEN WE WROTE THAT ESSAY BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
I WROTE HOW I WANTED TO BECOME AN ACTRESS OR SINGER WHEN I GROW UP
I WANTED A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LIKE ME

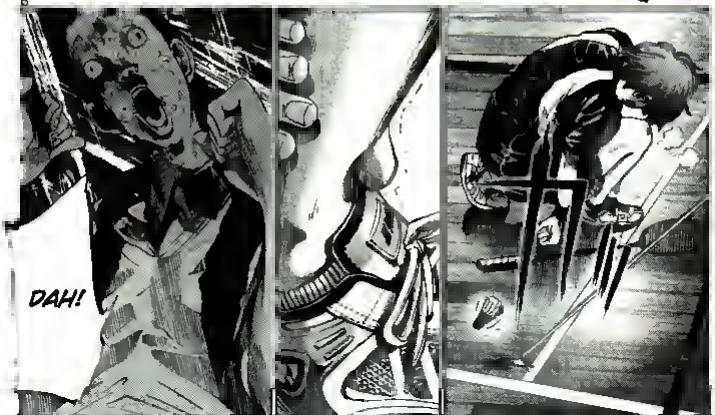
BUT I'M DIFFERENT NOW
IT'S ALRIGHT IF IT'S ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON

JUST A SINGLE PERSON
AND WE'D UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
WE'D BE SO CLOSE AS TO NOT ALLOW EVEN 1MM GAP OF DISTANCE BETWEEN

AS LONG AS I CAN BE WITH A PERSON LIKE THAT
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE

IF MY DREAM CAN BE GRANTED,
I WON'T MIND IF I DIED RIGHT THEN


AGH!!

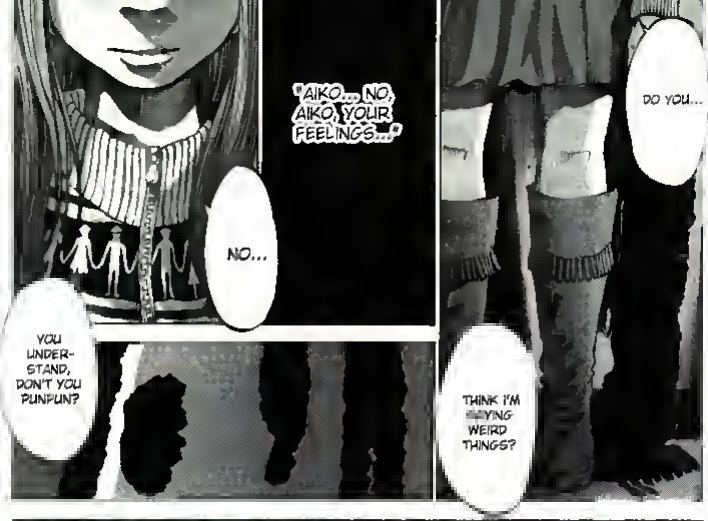

DAH!

YAGUCHI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOUR RIGHT LEG DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN THE BEST CONDITION DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
UH OH, HE'S CATCHING UP.
EVEN IF YOU LOSE, YOU STILL EARNED A TICKET TO THE ADVANCE TO THE NEXT TOURNAMNET. SO DON'T INJURE YOURSELF.

...NO,
I'M PERFECTLY FINE!!

YESTERDAY, HE PHONED ME.
AND SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO SAY AFTER THE MATCH SO I SHOULD DEFINITELY COME.
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY LIKE HIM GETTING ALL AGITATED FOR SOME REASON.

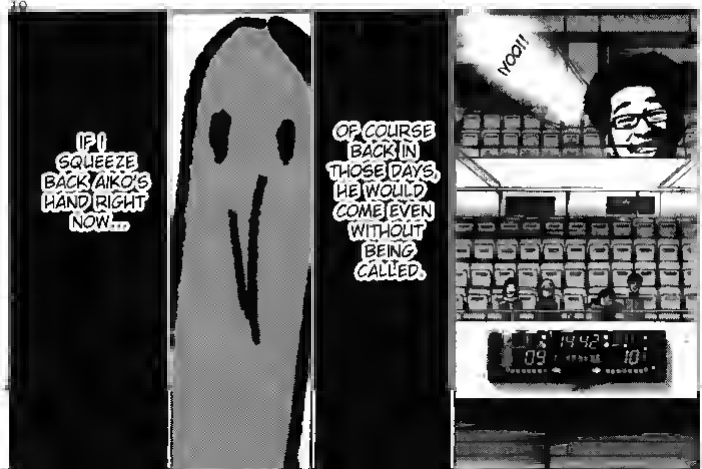
SO I THEN TOLD HIM,
LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT THE MATCH
AND RUN AWAY TOGETHER
BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEANT AND LAUGHED...
—TANAKA, WHAT'RE YOU TALKING TO PUNPUN FOR?
IT'S AN IMPORTANT MATCH, YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING!
AND THEN I REALIZED IT.
THAT HE'S DIFFERENT FROM ME
"AIKO..."
WE'RE TWO WORLDS APART.

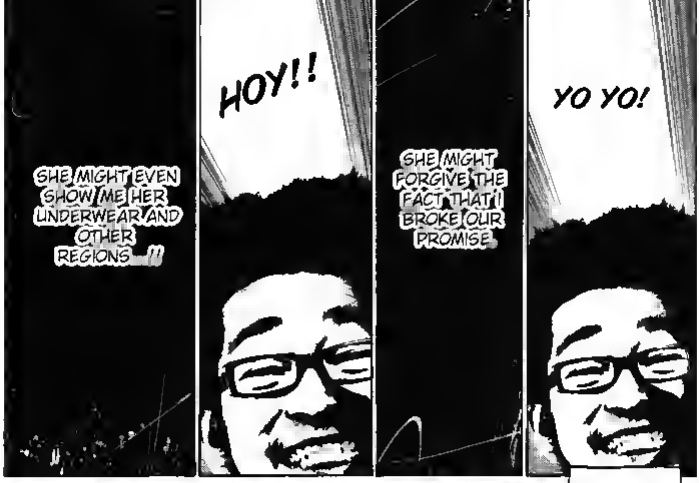


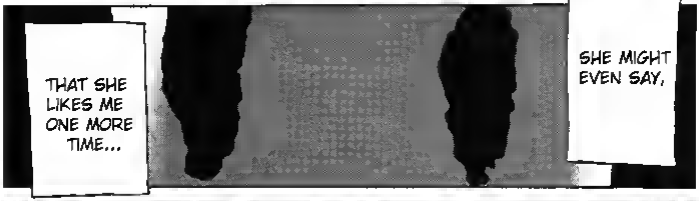
LIKE ON THAT DAY SHE PLANNED TO GO ALL THE WAY TO KAGOSHIMA, WITH A BAG AS LARGE AS HER SLUNG OVER HER SHOULDERS..."

"I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO COME MEET HER,

GOD COMES WHEN I CHANT, DEAR GOD, DEAR GOD, TINKLE TINKLE HOY.

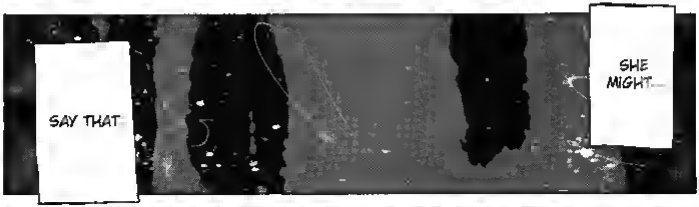


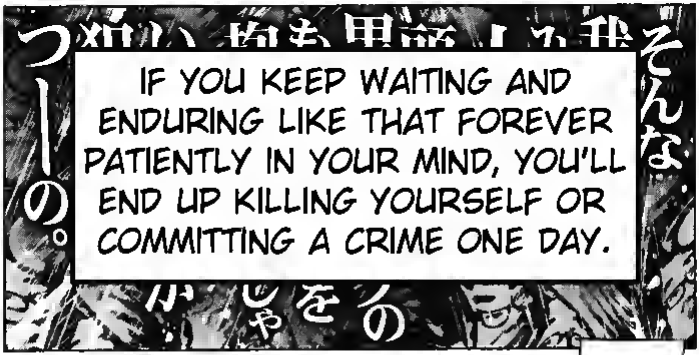

SHE MIGHT EVEN SHOW ME HER UNDERWEAR AND OTHER REGIONS...!!
HOY!!
SHE MIGHT FORGIVE THE FACT THAT I BROKE OUR PROMISE.
YO YO!

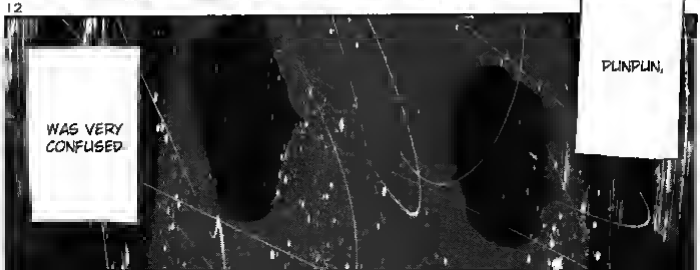

THAT SHE LIKES ME ONE MORE TIME...
SHE MIGHT EVEN SAY,

...BUT THERE'S STILL THAT!! PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST PUT ASIDE THAT BET WITH YAGUCHI FOR NOW, AND DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION FIRST!! HOW LOGICAL PUNPUN IS!!

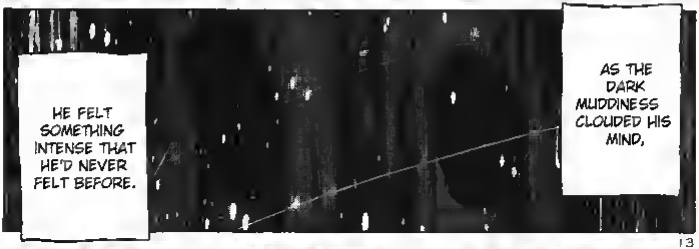
"...HEY PUNPUN, CAN YOU STOP THE NICE GUY ACT ALREADY?"

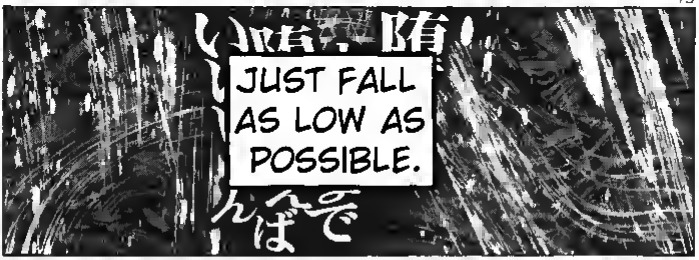

SAY THAT
SHE MIGHT...


IF YOU KEEP WAITING AND ENDURING LIKE THAT FOREVER PATIENTLY IN YOUR MIND, YOU'LL END UP KILLING YOURSELF OR COMMITTING A CRIME ONE DAY.


PUNPUN,
WAS VERY CONFUSED

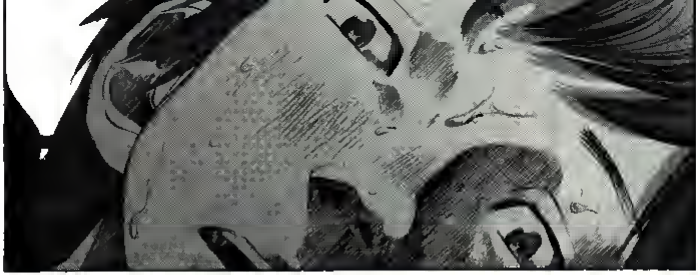
い生欲だっ
SO IT'S BETTER TO LIVE GREEDILY.
ゃんえば

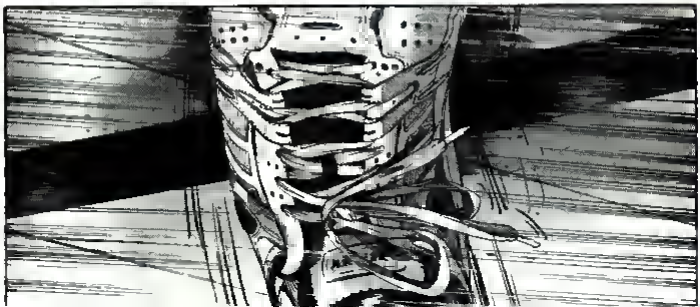

HE FELT SOMETHING INTENSE THAT HE'D NEVER FELT BEFORE.
AS THE DARK MUDDINESS CLOUDED HIS MIND,


JUST FALL AS LOW AS POSSIBLE.
んぱで

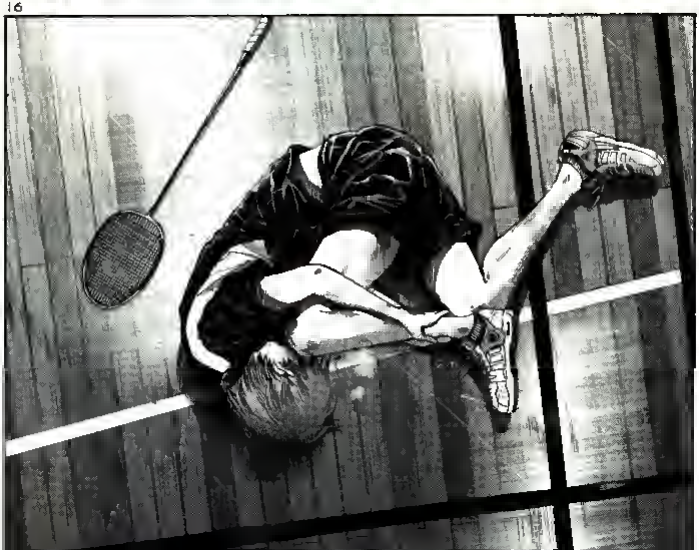
HE WAS DRIFTING IN SPACE
IT WAS AS IF...

WITH HOPE,
LONE-
NESS,
AND ECSTASY.





...DID YOU,
AH,
HE COL-LAPSED
JUST HEAR A WEIRD NOISE?
14:45
10
初半 休館 後半 延長



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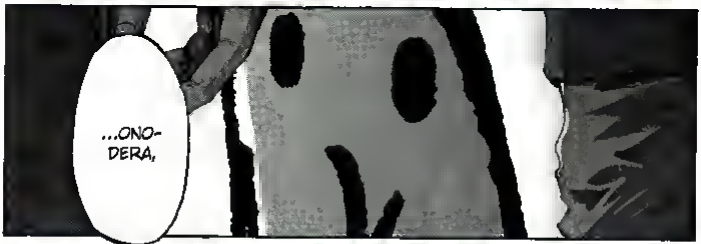
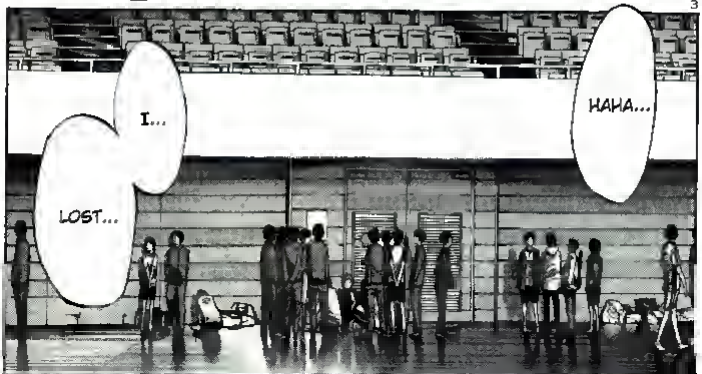
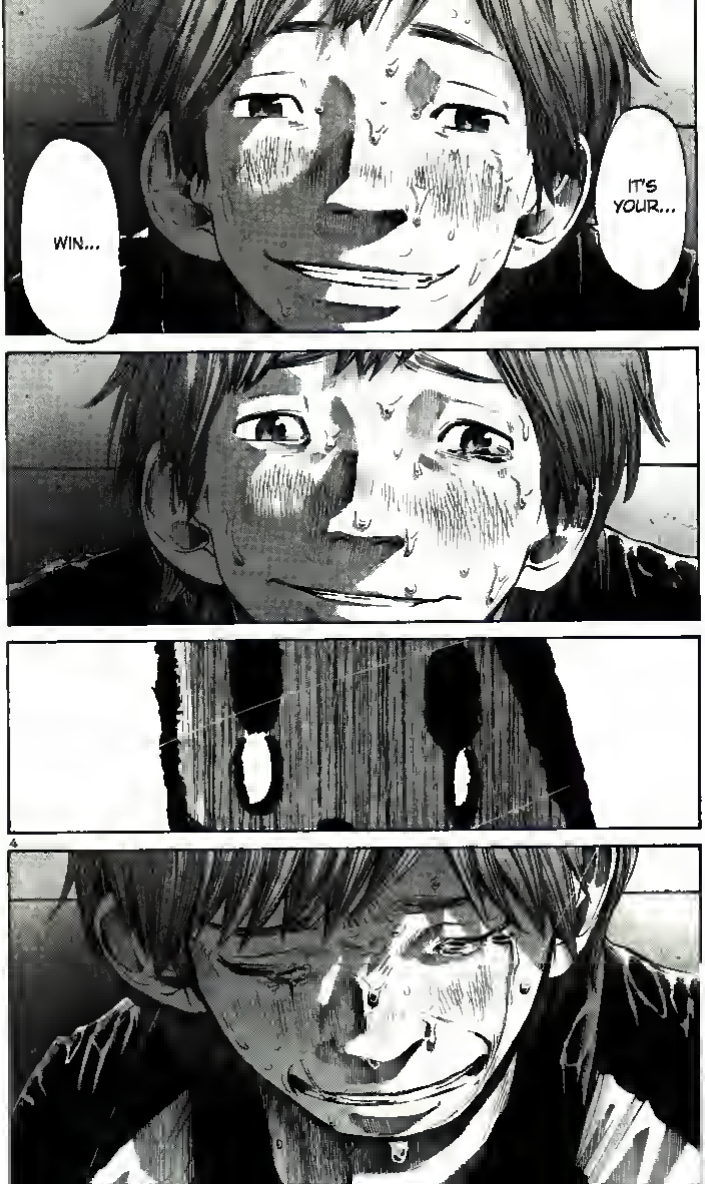
HEY, PUNPUN!!
HURRY UP, WE'RE GOING TO GO CHECK IT OUT!

IS IT THE CHRONIC ACHILLES TENDON?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING...?
NO WONDER YOUR RIGHT LEG SEEMED AWKWARD.
AND YOU UNECCESSARILY PUT TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN ON YOUR LEFT LEG.
IF YOUR TENDON HAS TORN YOU'LL BE OUT FOR 2 MONTHS
..HE'S FINISHED.
EVEN THOUGH HE WOULD HAVE STILL ADVANCED,
EVEN IF HE LOST.
2
...MAMORU, I THINK YOU PLAYED VERY WELL!
YOUR MOTHER IS VERY PROUD!!

DON'T TOUCH ME!!


...ONO-DERA,


HAHA...
I...
LOST...


WIN...
IT'S YOUR...

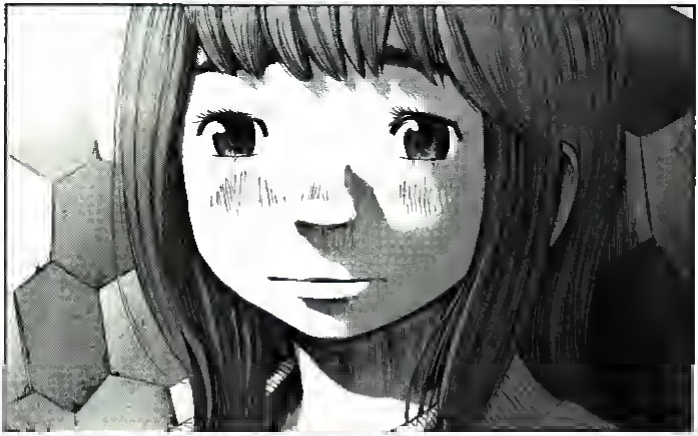
I'M TAKING YAGUCHI TO THE HOSPITAL.
CLEAN UP AND GO HOME AT YOUR OWN PACE!

PUNPUN,
YOU WANT TO GO TO A GAME CENTER?

IN FACT, PUNPUN FELT IT WAS HIS FAULT THAT YAGUCHI OVEREXERTED HIMSELF AND ENDED UP BEING INJURED. IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR PUNPUN TO BEAR.

NO, THAT'S WRONG. ALTHOUGH HE PRETENDED TO BE A GOOD CHILD IN HIS HEAD, PUNPUN WAS REALLY A DISHONEST CHILD.

IT WAS AS IF ANOTHER SELF EXISTED INSIDE IN HIS HEAD...
ARE YOU GOING HOME?
HE DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT BUT FOR A MOMENT, HE FELT GOOD TO BETRAY AND KICK A PERSON ON THE GROUND.



WAS REFLECTED IN AIKO'S PURE, ROUND EYES.
HE WAS SURE THAT HIS DESPICABLE, DISGUSTING SELF,

"I'M SORRY...THAT I COULDN'T KEEP OUR PROMISE TO GO TO KAGOSHIMA ON THAT DAY."

PUNPUN AT LAST UNDERSTOOD THAT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS,

HE LONGED TO JUST SAY THIS TO HER.

"AIKO IS... SMILING."

THEN...
SHOULD WE GO NOW?
TO KAGO-SHIMA!!

PUNPUN FELT,

PUNPUN,
YOU WOULDN'T LIE, RIGHT?
HE WOULD FALL AND FALL BELOW TO THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF DARKNESS.
THAT IF HE WERE TO TAKE JUST ONE STEP CLOSER TO AIKO THEN AND THERE,

"PLEASE GO RIGHT NOW TO YAGUCHI."

"YAGUCHI NEEDS YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING RIGHT NOW..."

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
PUNPUN WAS TOO SCARED TO EVEN TURN AND LOOK BACK.

PUNPUN COULD CLEARLY SEE HIS VILE SELF REFLECTED CLEARLY.
THANKS TO THE PURE WHITE SNOW THAT HAD FALLEN LAST NIGHT.
PUNPUN.
IF POSSIBLE, HE WISHED FOR THE PURE WHITE SNOW TO MELT AND WITH IT, FOR EVERYTHING ELSE TO DISAPPEAR AS WELL.
WHICH DO YOU PREFER, BESTIALITY OR NECRO-PHILIA?

YOU ARE CRYING!

YOU CRYING AGAIN?

...I'M NOT CRYING!!

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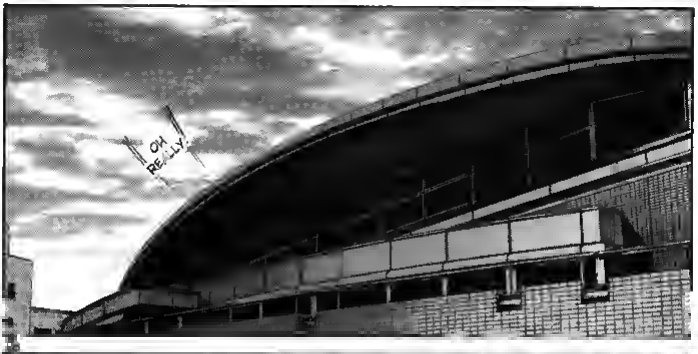
浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

...I AM NOT CRYING!!!



"GOODBYE... AIKO."

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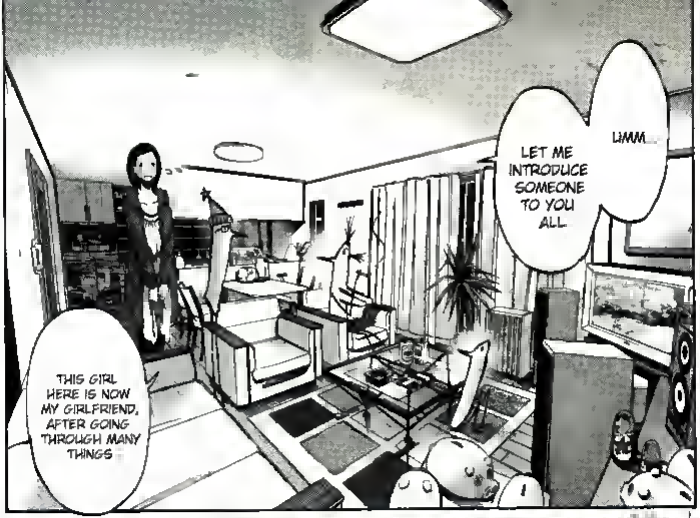
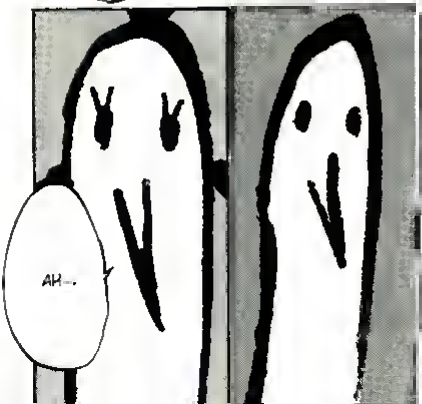

UMM...
LET ME INTRODUCE SOMEONE TO YOU ALL
THIS GIRL HERE IS NOW MY GIRLFRIEND, AFTER GOING THROUGH MANY THINGS

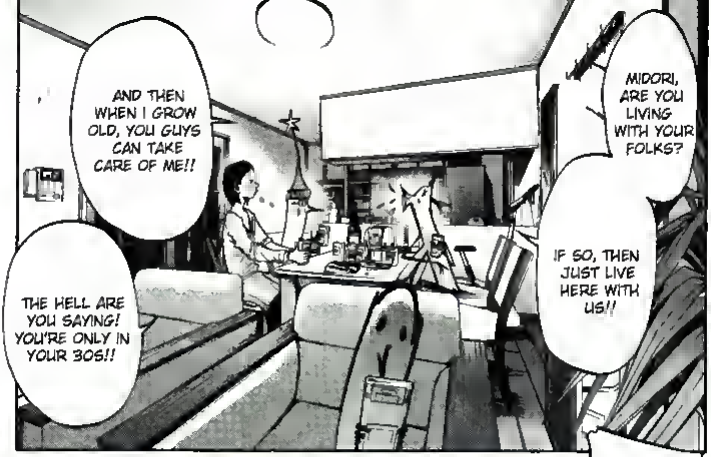
I WAS THE NURSE AT THE HOSPITAL YOU WERE...

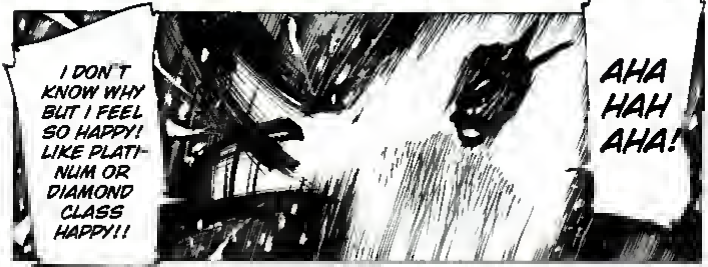
UMM...MY NAME IS OOKUMA MIDORI!!
IT'S NICE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE... DO YOU... REMEMBER ME?

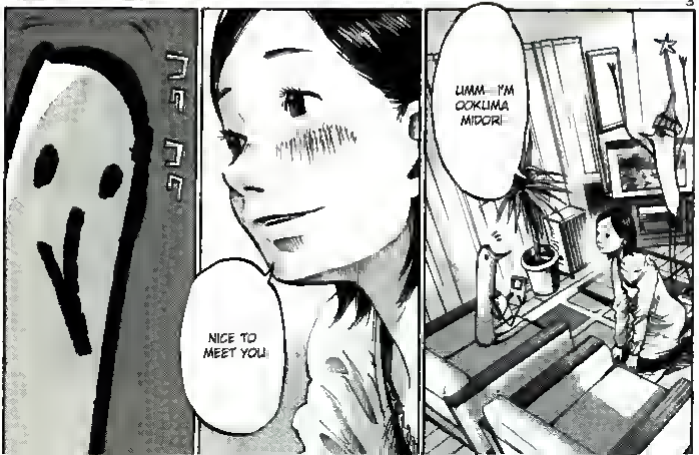

AH...

キャハハ
SUCH A GOOD GIRL!
IF I WERE A MAN I'D BE ALL OVER HER IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!!
THERE'S NO WAAAY I'D HAVE FORGOTTEN!
OH PLEAAASE!

2
KYA HA HA HA!
ISN'T THIS FUN!!
SHE SEEMS AS LIVELY AS EVER.
...SORRY ABOUT MY SISTER.
SHOULD I OPEN UP A ROOM SO YOU CAN... "STAY" WITH HER TONIGHT?
SHUT UP, GOD YOU'RE SO BLUNT.
DAMN YOU SURE HIT THE JACKPOT!!
YUU ICHI!


MIDORI, ARE YOU LIVING WITH YOUR FOLKS?
IF SO, THEN JUST LIVE HERE WITH US!!
AND THEN WHEN I GROW OLD, YOU GUYS CAN TAKE CARE OF ME!!
THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING! YOU'RE ONLY IN YOUR 30S!!

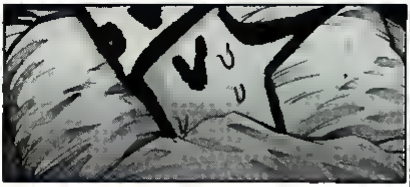

AHA HAH AHA!
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I FEEL SO HAPPY! LIKE PLATINUM OR DIAMOND CLASS HAPPY!!


UMM... I'M OOKUMA MIDORI
NICE TO MEET YOU

HMM...
YOU KNOW,
FOR A NEPHEW. HE LOOKS SURPRISINGLY LIKE YOU, YUUICHI.
...YEAH, EVEN HIS SHYNESS I GUESS.
WHAT ABOUT HIS GLOOMY SIDE EH!?
PLNPLN
PLNPLN

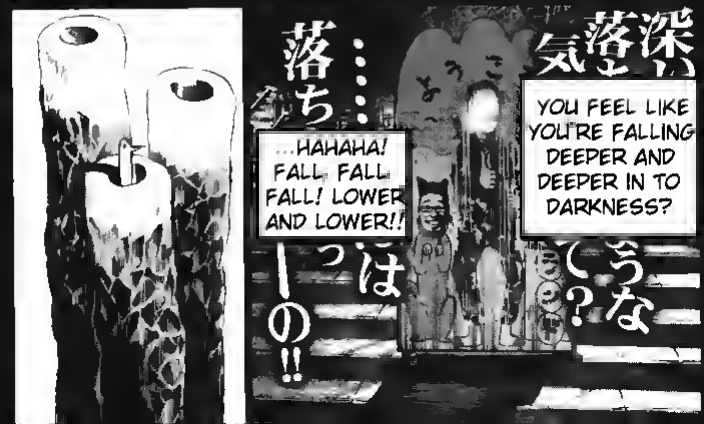
MIDORI, AT LEAST STAY OVER JUST FOR TONIGHT
IF YOU DON'T I MIGHT END UP CRYING DUE TO LONELINESS
WHA?
WELL, UHH... IF SO, THEN I GUESS I COULD STAY...

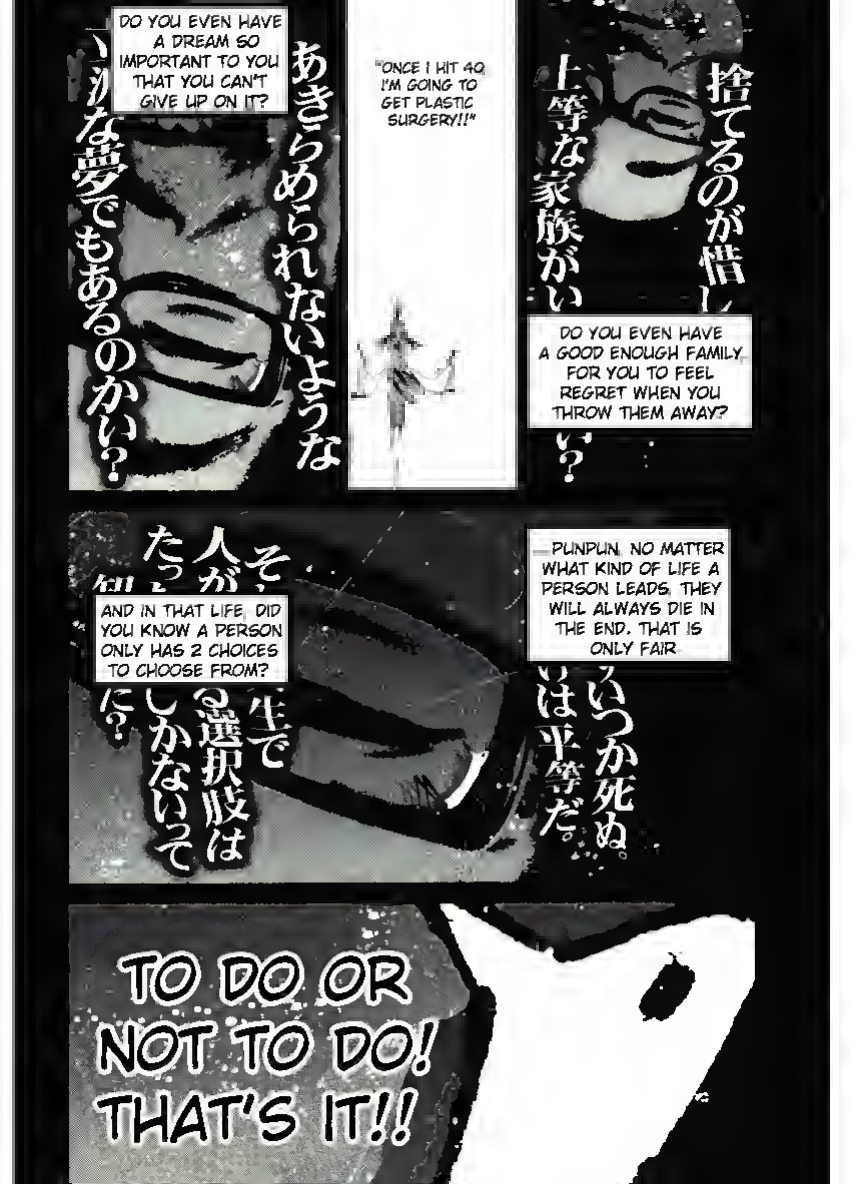
FELT VERY STRANGE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.



HE KEPT DREAMING ABOUT THAT DAY WHEN THE BADMINTON TOURNAMENT ENDED.

YOU SCAREDY CAT!!

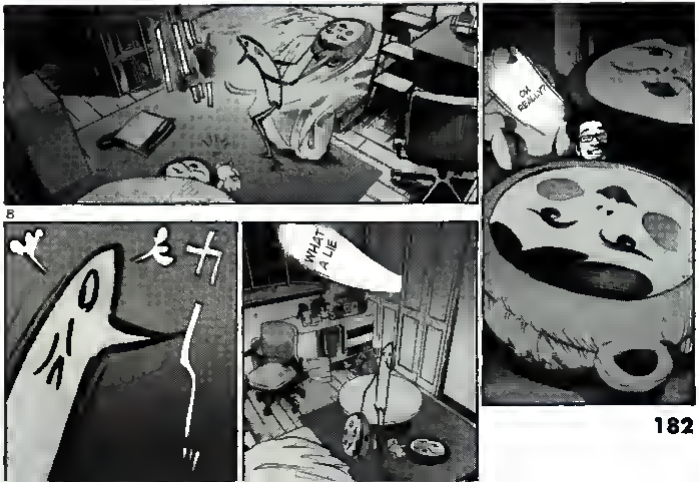

深い落とし穴
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FALLING DEEPER AND DEEPER IN TO DARKNESS?
ようこそ?
落ちる……
...HAHAHA! FALL, FALL, FALL! LOWER AND LOWER!!
はーっの!!

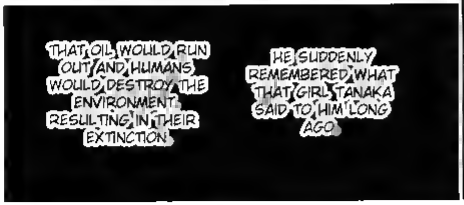

捨てるのが惜し
上等な家族がい
い?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE A GOOD ENOUGH FAMILY FOR YOU TO FEEL REGRET WHEN YOU THROW THEM AWAY?
"ONCE I HIT 40 I'M GOING TO GET PLASTIC SURGERY!!"
あきらめられないような
ン汚な夢でもあるのかい?
DO YOU EVEN HAVE A DREAM SO IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON IT?
いつか死ぬ。
は平等だ。
—PUNPUN, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF LIFE A PERSON LEADS, THEY WILL ALWAYS DIE IN THE END. THAT IS ONLY FAIR
生で
る選択肢は
しかないって
に?
AND IN THAT LIFE, DID YOU KNOW A PERSON ONLY HAS 2 CHOICES TO CHOOSE FROM?
TO DO OR NOT TO DO! THAT'S IT!!

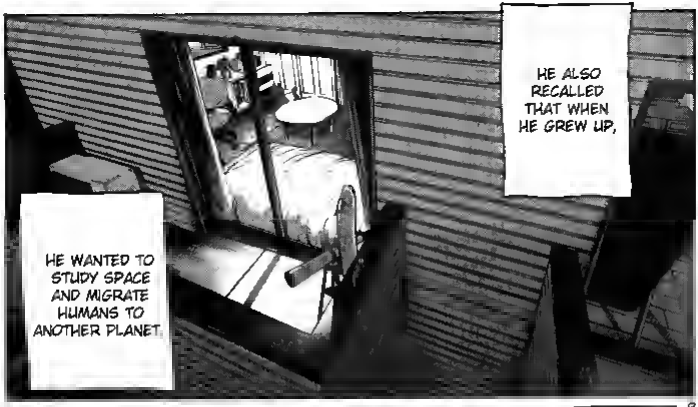
HE JUST WANTED TO BE FORGOTTEN BY EVERYONE.

HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE...HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE...

IF HE COULD SLEEP PEACEFULLY WITHOUT THINKING ANYTHING!!

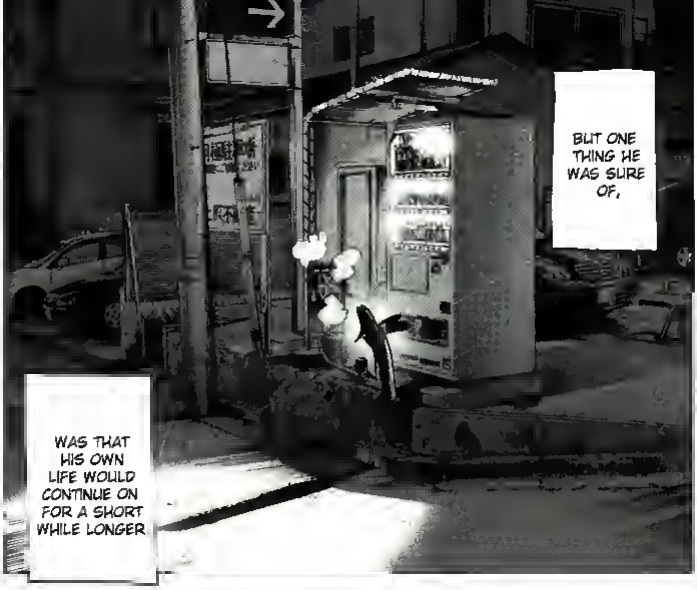


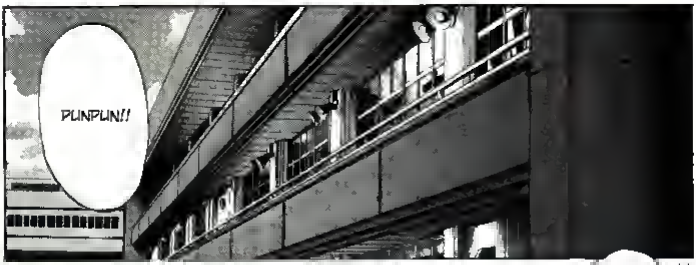

THAT OIL WOULD RUN OUT AND HUMANS WOULD DESTROY THE ENVIRONMENT, RESULTING IN THEIR EXTINCTION.
HE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED WHAT THAT GIRL TANAKA SAID TO HIM LONG AGO.

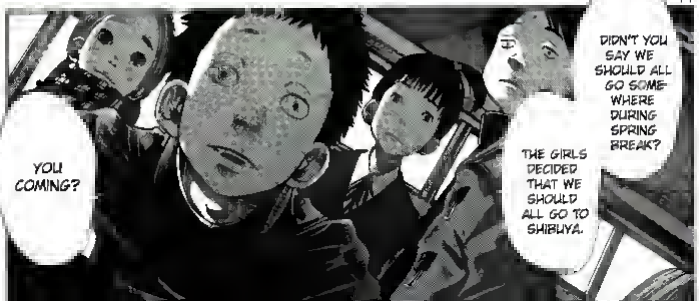

HE ALSO RECALLED THAT WHEN HE GREW UP,
HE WANTED TO STUDY SPACE AND MIGRATE HUMANS TO ANOTHER PLANET.

I WAS SUCH A KID BACK THEN
PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF,

THE STARRY SKY THAT LOOKED CLOSE ENOUGH TO REACH WITH HIS HANDS WHEN HE WAS A KID.
NOW LOOKED,
SO FAR AWAY.
I'M AT MY LIMIT...!!
I DON'T CARE!
I DIDN'T PLAN TO STAY HERE FOR THAT REASON...
YU-YUUICHI!
10
PUNPUN FELT THAT HUMANITY MAY OR MAY NOT GO EXTINCT.
NN...
NO...
AH...
IT'S FINE. THEY'RE DEEP ASLEEP!
AND THEY'LL HEAR US...


BUT ONE THING HE WAS SURE OF.
WAS THAT HIS OWN LIFE WOULD CONTINUE ON FOR A SHORT WHILE LONGER

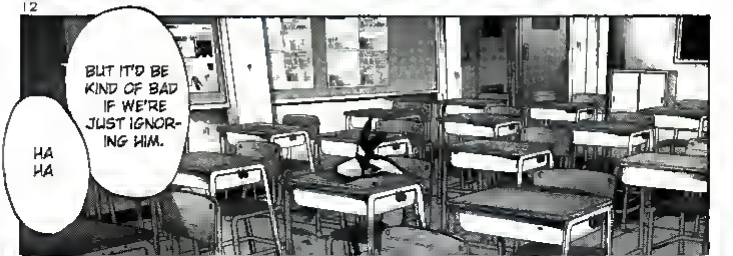

PUNPUN!!


DIDN'T YOU SAY WE SHOULD ALL GO SOMEWHERE DURING SPRING BREAK?
THE GIRLS DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD ALL GO TO SHIBUYA.
YOU COMING?

HE'S SLEEPING.
PUNPUN?
...HUH?

IT'LL BE JUST BORING IF HE COMES.
PUNPUN'S KINDA BEEN GLOOMY LATELY.
EH WHAT-EVER.

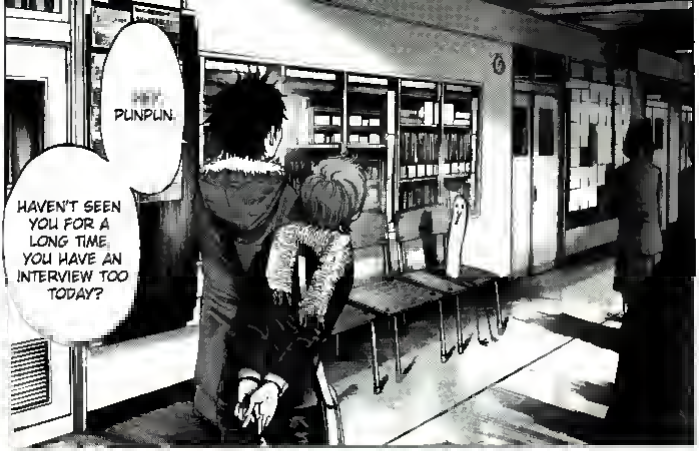
I GUESS...
HMM...


HA HA
BUT IT'D BE KIND OF BAD IF WE'RE JUST IGNOR-ING HIM.

SOCIAL STUDIES REFERENCE ROOM
SEKI.
I'VE ALREADY SAID COUNTLESS OF TIMES, AND IT'S ALREADY THE 3RD SEMESTER. ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU GAVE IT SERIOUS THOUGHT?
I'VE SAID IT COUNTLESS OF TIMES TOO, SIR.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL.
...FINE, DO WHAT YOU WANT.
EVEN IF SOMEONE LIKE ME STUDIES, I'LL ONLY LEARN HOW TO BE CRAFTY.

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, SHIMIZU.
学年一者面談
四組：図書室
五組：進路指導
六組：社会
HEY, SHIMIZU...
DID YOU DECIDE IF YOU'RE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL?
THINGS TOOK UNEXP-ECTEDLY LONGER.
WASN'T IT YOU WHO TOLD ME...
TO STUDY A LOT AND GO TO A GOOD SCHOOL?

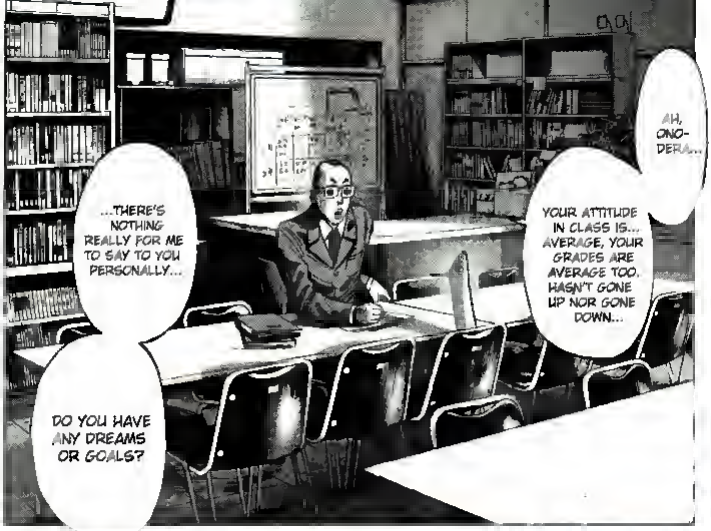
—I GUESS IT WAS
THAT'S GOOD.
BEING NORMAL IS BEST FOR YOU.


HEY PUNPUN.
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME. YOU HAVE AN INTERVIEW TOO TODAY?

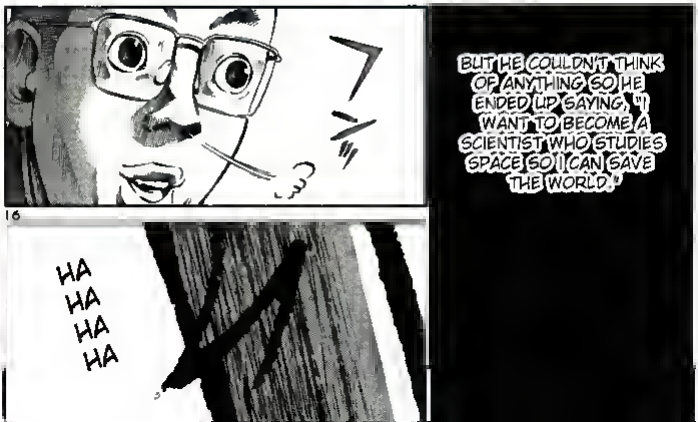
SEE YA.
HA HA
YOU GROW ANY HAIR DOWN THERE?

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR SO LONG THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ANYMORE
HOW YOU DOING? YOUR VOICE SEEMS MUCH DEEPER NOW

LIKE A JUNGLE

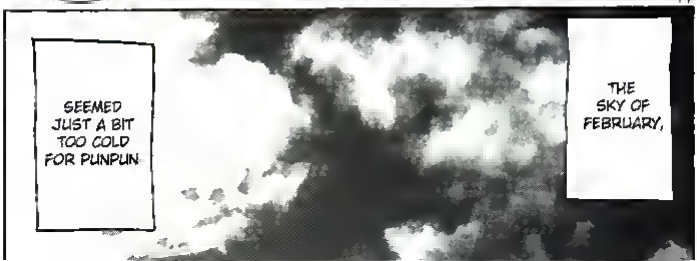

AH, ONO-DERA...
YOUR ATTITUDE IN CLASS IS... AVERAGE, YOUR GRADES ARE AVERAGE TOO. HASN'T GONE UP NOR GONE DOWN...
...THERE'S NOTHING REALLY FOR ME TO SAY TO YOU PERSONALLY...
DO YOU HAVE ANY DREAMS OR GOALS?

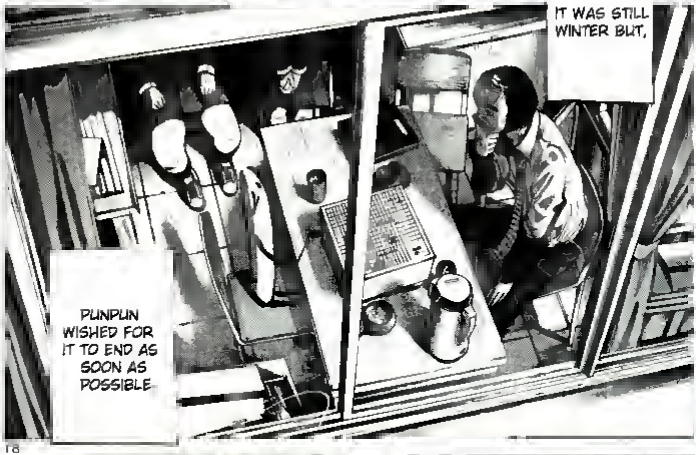
PUNPUN THOUGHT VERY HARD


BUT HE COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING SO HE ENDED UP SAYING, "I WANT TO BECOME A SCIENTIST WHO STUDIES SPACE SO I CAN SAVE THE WORLD."
HA HA HA HA

OH, I HEARD YOU QUIT THE BADMINTON CLUB.
I SEE...
DID YOU CHOOSE ANOTHER CLUB?
GO CLUB
THEN YOU BETTER STUDY LIKE HELL

WELL... OUR GO CLUB IS...
WE ONLY REALLY HAVE 2 MEMBERS SO IT'S HARD TO CALL US A PROPER CLUB...
BUT YOU SEEM LIKE A SERIOUS BOY AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO LEARN
HOW ABOUT IT? DO YOU WANT TO TRY PLAYING A GAME?


THE SKY OF FEBRUARY,
SEEMED JUST A BIT TOO COLD FOR PUNPUN


IT WAS STILL WINTER BUT,
PUNPUN WISHED FOR IT TO END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

18

HE CAN DO IT!!

SCANLATED BY HOX

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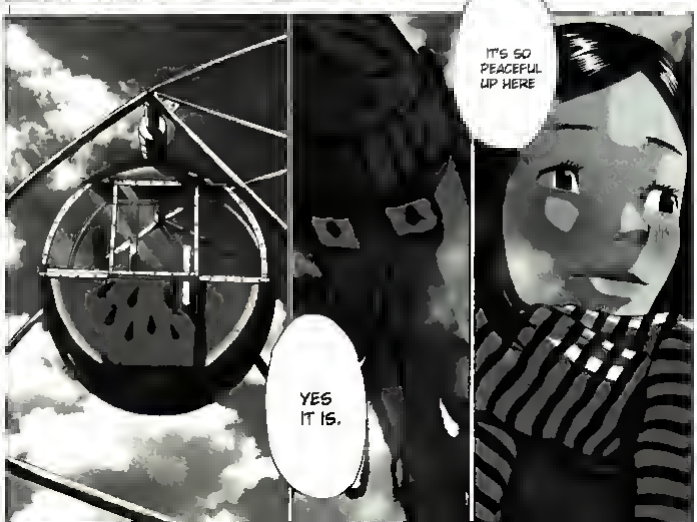
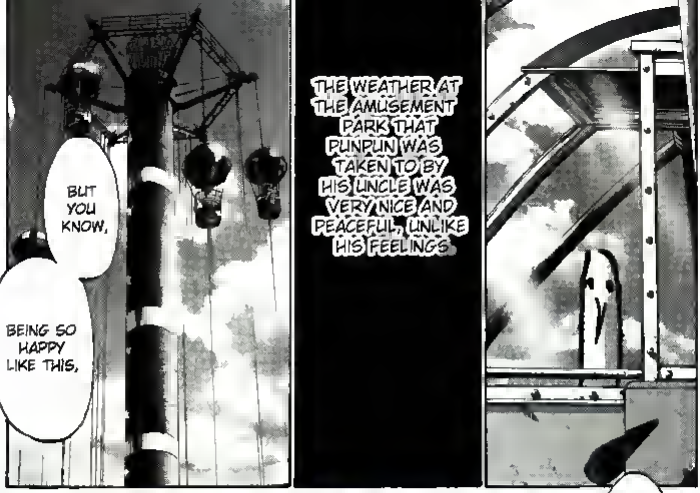
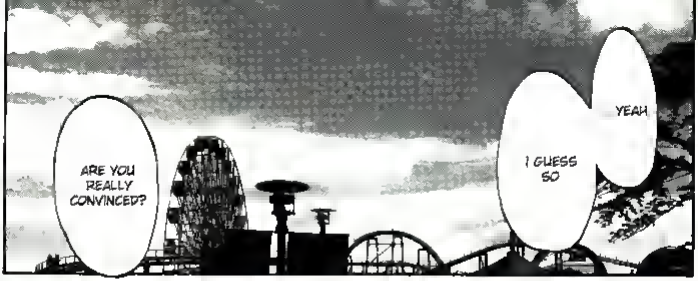
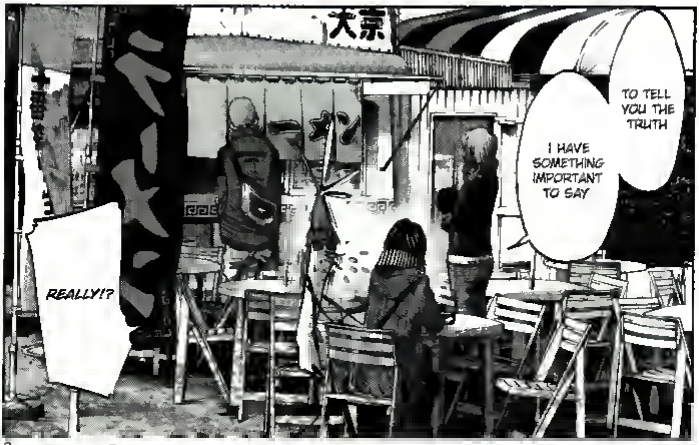



THE WEATHER AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK THAT PUNPUN WAS TAKEN TO BY HIS UNCLE WAS VERY NICE AND PEACEFUL, UNLIKE HIS FEELINGS.
BUT YOU KNOW,
BEING SO HAPPY LIKE THIS,

HEY, HEY NOW
DID MY PESSIMISM SPREAD TO YOU TOO?
SINCE I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER HOW LONG THESE HAPPY TIMES WILL CONTINUE ON FOR...
MAKES ME FEEL A BIT UNEASY,

SO YOU BETTER ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, RIGHT?
TRUE HAPPINESS ONLY LASTS FOR A BRIEF TIME,

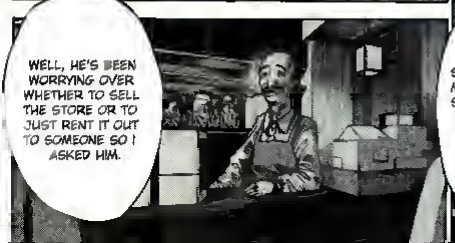

ARE YOU REALLY CONVINCED?
I GUESS SO
YEAH

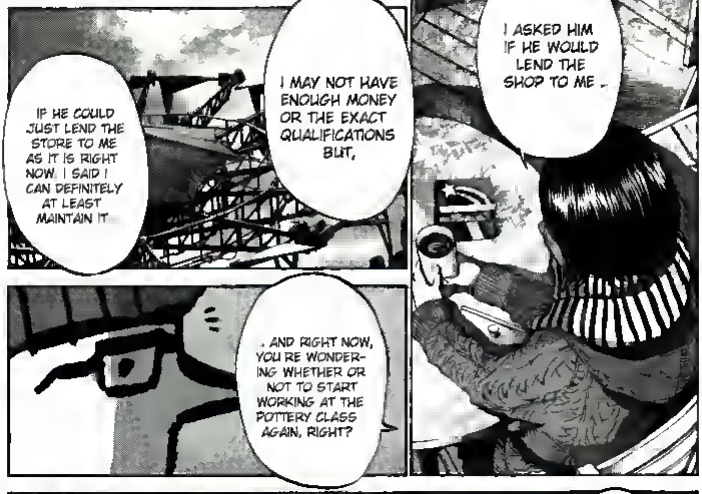

REALLY!?
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH

3

SO WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP?
AH, I SEE

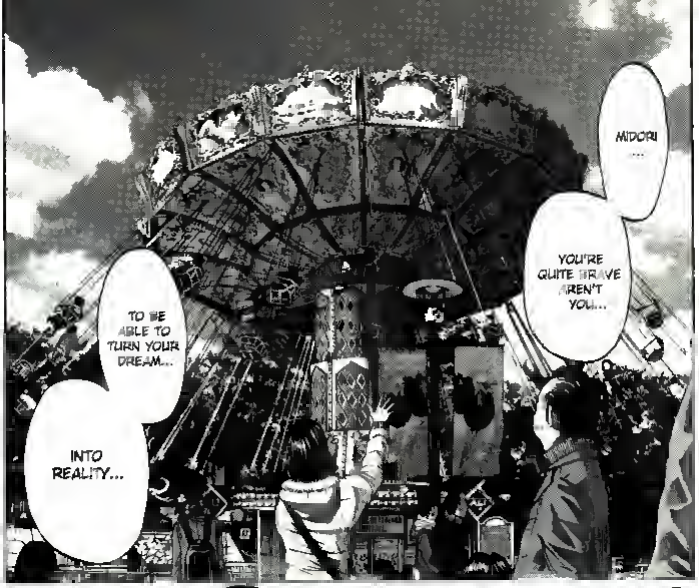
THE STORE OWNER OF THE CAFE I WORK AT,
SAID THAT HIS MOTHER IS ILL SO HE'S GOING TO BE GOING TO GO LIVE WITH HIS MOTHER.


WELL, HE'S BEEN WORRYING OVER WHETHER TO SELL THE STORE OR TO JUST RENT IT OUT TO SOMEONE SO I ASKED HIM.


I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD LEND THE SHOP TO ME...
I MAY NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY OR THE EXACT QUALIFICATIONS BUT,
IF HE COULD JUST LEND THE STORE TO ME AS IT IS RIGHT NOW, I SAID I CAN DEFINITELY AT LEAST MAINTAIN IT...
...AND RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO START WORKING AT THE POTTERY CLASS AGAIN, RIGHT?

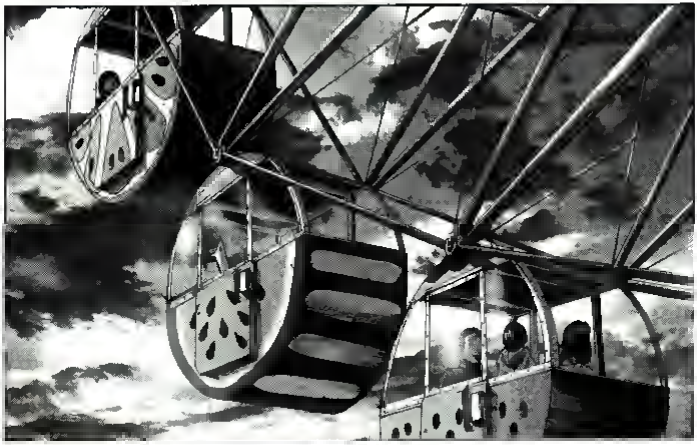
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD BECOME AN ART TEACHER AGAIN...
AND I COULD SERVE THE PLATES OR CUPS THAT YOU MAKE TO MY CUSTOMERS...
AND IT'D BE SUCH A NICE LITTLE SHOP...
HAHA... I GUESS I'M GETTING A BIT AHEAD OF MYSELF WITH MY IMAGINATIONS...

BUT THE OWNER AGREED.
HE SAID HE'D EVEN GIVE ME A DISCOUNT ON THE RENT.


MIDORI
...
YOU'RE QUITE BRAVE AREN'T YOU...
TO BE ABLE TO TURN YOUR DREAM...
INTO REALITY...

5

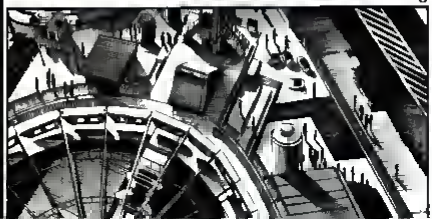
NO...
I DON'T THINK I COULD DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF.
BUT JUST HAVING YOU BY MY SIDE GIVE ME ENOUGH STRENGTH...
TO BE HONEST, YOU MAY NOT BE THE MOST DEPENDABLE PERSON...
...MIDORI!!



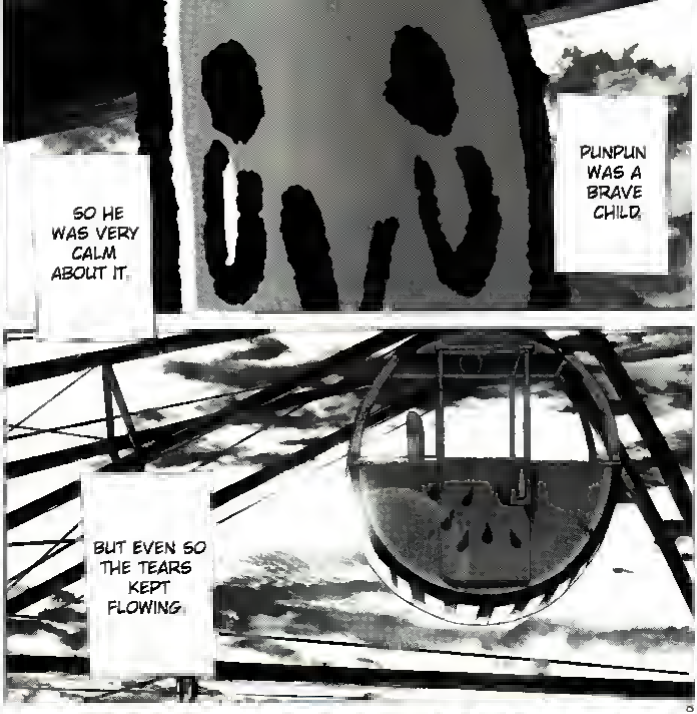
AND TO THINK THAT EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN LIVES AND STORIES OVERWHELMED PUNPUN A LITTLE.

THE PEOPLE SEEN BELOW ALL THE WAY ABOVE FROM THE FERRIS WHEEL LOOKED SO TINY JUST LIKE ANTS.

LET'S PROMISE!!

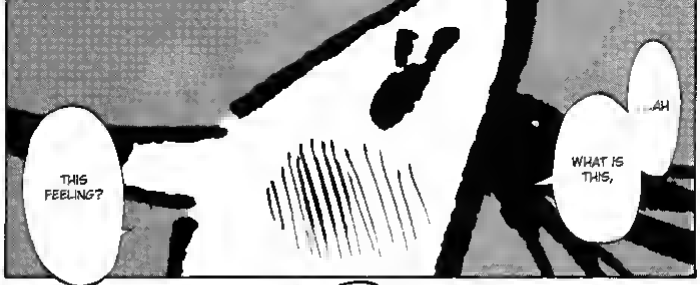


BUT HIS OWN EXISTENCE... WAS PROBABLY AS UNNOTICEABLE AS A DUST FLUTTERING ABOVE IN THE SKIES.


PUNPUN WAS A BRAVE CHILD.
SO HE WAS VERY CALM ABOUT IT.
BUT EVEN SO THE TEARS KEPT FLOWING.
BUT BEFORE HE KNEW IT, IT WAS TIME TO EXIT THE FERRIS WHEEL.
HE TRIED HIS HARDEST TO THINK WHY HE WAS CRYING.
SORRY.

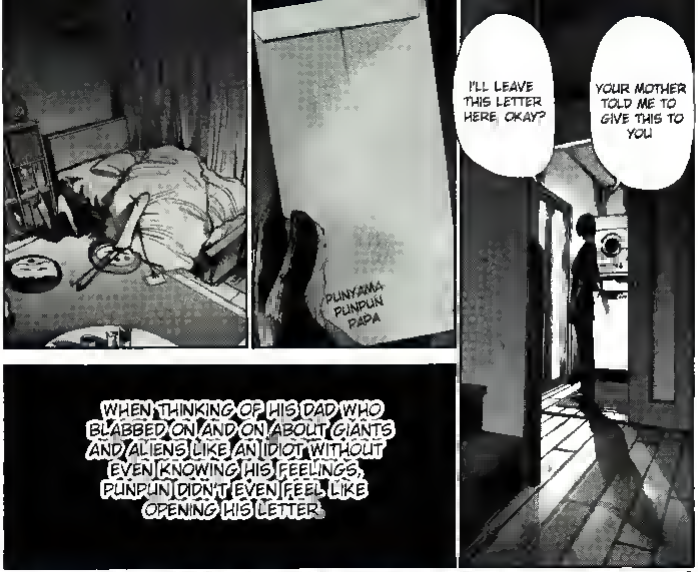
I'M REALLY SORRY!
SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU TO PLAY ON YOUR OWN AND THEN MAKING YOU WAIT HERE FOR US
HEY, HEY, BOY! EATING 3 SKEWERED SQUIDS BY YOURSELF
HE HAD JUST A FEW TOO MANY DRINKS...
THAT'S PRETTY MANLY YOU LITTLE BUGGER!

I SEE
OH TO HELL WITH THEM !!
AH, YUUICHI FELL ASLEEP.
YOU SHOULD HAVE INVITED ME! I WOULD HAVE SKIPPED WORK!
...BUT IT'S FULL OF COUPLES...
THE AMUSEMENT PARK?
THEN.. WHAT SHOULD WE HAVE FOR DINNER TOMORROW? SHOULD I MAKE YOUR FAVOURITE?
OH IF THAT'S THE CASE I'LL BUY THE GROCERIES AND COME HOME QUICKLY AFTER WORK TOMORROW
WELL... I ALREADY FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY THAT I'VE BEEN STAYING HERE FOR ONE MONTH
HEY MIDORI, HOW ABOUT WE DRINK A LITTLE AND HAVE OURSELVES A GIRL TALK?
OH PLEASE, WE DON'T MIND AT ALL
BESIDES, YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT COOKING!


AH
WHAT IS THIS,
THIS FEELING?

IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE A FAMILY!!
キャハハ

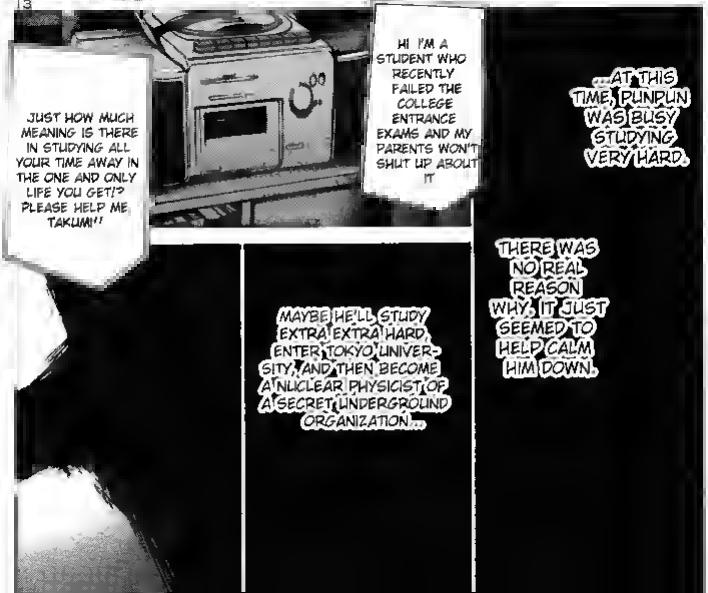
PUNPUN DIDN'T REALLY CARE FOR THIS STUPID FAMILY ACT...
AHAHAHA, HOW FUNNY!
JEEZ, YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT OFTEN THESE DAYS
PUNPUN?
TODAY WAS VERY FUN


PUNYAMA PUNPUN PAPA
I'LL LEAVE THIS LETTER HERE, OKAY?
YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS TO YOU
WHEN THINKING OF HIS DAD WHO BLABBED ON AND ON ABOUT GIANTS AND ALIENS LIKE AN IDIOT, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING HIS FEELINGS, PUNPUN DIDN'T EVEN FEEL LIKE OPENING HIS LETTER.

12

"I'M AN 8TH GRADE BOY WHO FINALLY MANAGED TO GET A GIRLFRIEND. I EVEN GOT TO HOLD HER HAND."
AND THE NEXT LETTER TO OUR RADIO STATION IS FROM... SNAKEMAN.

BUT THEN WHEN I HOLD HER HAND I GET A BONER SO I CAN'T WALK PROPERLY!!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? PLEASE HELP ME TAKUMI
I UNDERSTAND... I WAS LIKE THAT BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOO...


JUST HOW MUCH MEANING IS THERE IN STUDYING ALL YOUR TIME AWAY IN THE ONE AND ONLY LIFE YOU GET!? PLEASE HELP ME TAKUMI!!
HI I'M A STUDENT WHO RECENTLY FAILED THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS AND MY PARENTS WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT
...AT THIS TIME, PUNPUN WAS BUSY STUDYING VERY HARD.
THERE WAS NO REAL REASON WHY, IT JUST SEEMED TO HELP CALM HIM DOWN.
MAYBE HE'LL STUDY EXTRA EXTRA HARD, ENTER TOKYO UNIVERSITY, AND THEN BECOME A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST OF A SECRET UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION...

AND THEN HE'D DESTROY MANKIND.

...HAHAHA! JUST KIDDING, WHAT A FUNNY CHILD!!

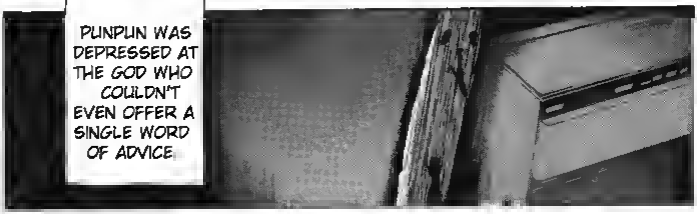
HI, I'M A 7TH GRADE MALE STUDENT. DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MY PARENTS HAVE DIVORCED AND MY MOM DRINKS ALL THE TIME NOW.

AND AT NIGHT, I HEAR MY UNCLE HAVING SEX WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND IN THE ROOM BESIDE MINE. I HAVE NO DREAMS AND I HAVE NO GIRLFRIEND.

HOW SHOULD I LIVE ON FROM NOW?

FROM, A LISTNER WITH THE ALIAS "ANGEL PIE"

PUNPUN WAS DEPRESSED AT THE GOD WHO COULDN'T EVEN OFFER A SINGLE WORD OF ADVICE.



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO CALL ME "GOD"!! NOT ME, IT WAS ALL YOU!!
WELL, WELL, WELL, IF THAT ISN'T THE FALSE ACCUSATION OF THE CENTURY!?
15
...THEN WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

I HEARD THAT BOYS DO PERVERTED THINGS WHILE THINKING ABOUT GIRLS THEY LIKE.
TEE HEE!
FROM PRINCESS TOMATO OF THE NORTH!
MOVING ON TO THE NEXT LETTER,
WHY DO BOYS DO THESE THINGS? PLEASE TELL ME TAKUMI!!
I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE DIRTYING ME WITH THEIR SICK THOUGHTS!!

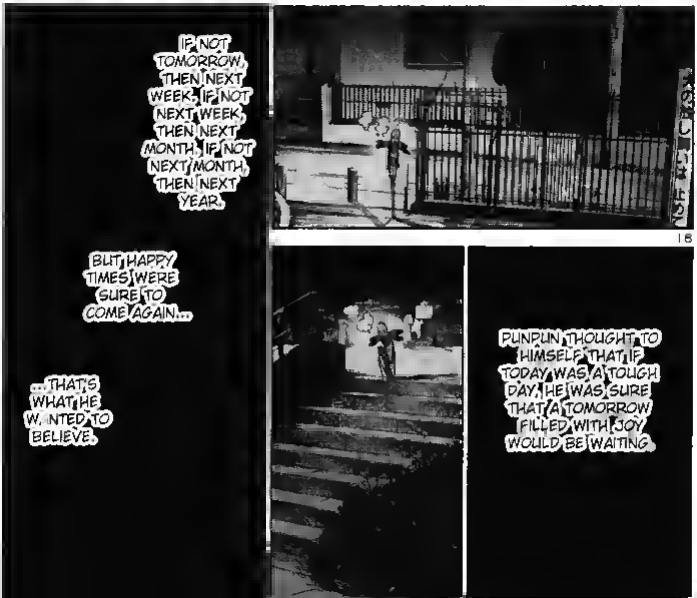
17

WERE STILL BLOWING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

WINDS COLD ENOUGH TO FREEZE A TOWN OVER,

EVEN THOUGH IT SHOULD BE SPRING SOON,

BUT SPRING WILL STILL DEFINITELY COME.
THERE S NO SUCH THING AS A NEVER-ENDING WINTER.

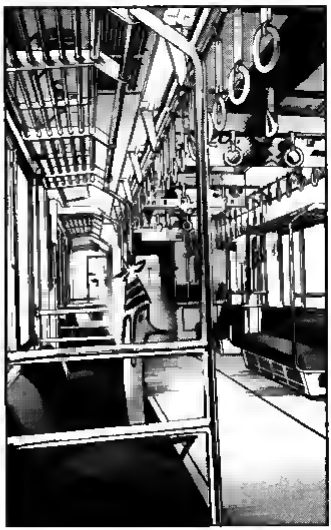

IF NOT TOMORROW, THEN NEXT WEEK. IF NOT NEXT WEEK, THEN NEXT MONTH. IF NOT NEXT MONTH, THEN NEXT YEAR.
BUT HAPPY TIMES WERE SURE TO COME AGAIN...
...THAT S WHAT HE W. NTED TO BELIEVE.
PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF TODAY WAS A TOUGH DAY, HE WAS SURE THAT A TOMORROW FILLED WITH JOY WOULD BE WAITING.

BUT, SO WHAT?
BUT, THAT WAS JUST HIS WISH-LIKE FANTASY.

19

GOODNIGHT, PUNPUN.
IN ANY CASE, THAT WAS IT FOR TODAY.

SCANLATED BY HOX



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IF I MAKE IT ANY CHEAPER MY BOSS WILL BE ANGRY!!
I CAN'T JUST IGNORE OUR ADVERTIZED PRICES AND GO EASY JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE HOLIDAYS!
UGH!
DOWAHH!
YOU DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN, MA'AM!!

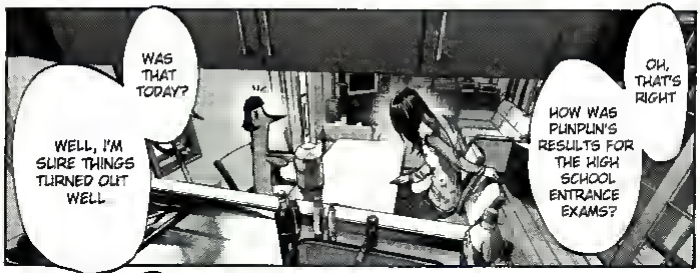
OH, WON'T YOU PLEASE DO IT FOR MY LOVELY SAKE ?

IT'S ABOUT THE PACKAGE SERVICE
HELLO? IS THIS THE MANAGER?
IT'S KUME OF THE SOUTHERN BRANCH OFFICES
YES, JUST HOW FAR CAN I LOWER THE PRICE TO?

2 YEARS LATER
ALRIGHT, MA"AM!
I MANAGED TO DO IT!!
HOW ABOUT 10 GRAND!?
2
ONOYERA PUNPUN MAMA
ONOYERA PUNPUN
ONOYERA YUCHI
OOKUMA MIYORI
DWAH!
GUAHH!!
WE'LL THROW IN A FREE EARTHQUAKE PREVENTION MAT AND YOUR TOTAL MOVING COSTS WILL BE A MERE 13 GRAND!!

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S FINE!!
I'M TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT THIS, AND THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS HOUSE
UMM, ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
EVEN WHEN YOU DEDUCT THE LOANS, THIS HOUSE IS STILL WORTH A LOT OF MONEY
AND THEN THE RECOMPENSATION MONEY FOR YUUICHI WILL BE DEALT WITH
YUUICHI IS A BIT STUBBORN SO
I DON'T THINK HE'D BE VERY HAPPY.
WHAT AN IDIOT
HE'S BEEN LIVING IN THIS HOUSE FOR ALMOST 5 YEARS PAYING THE HOUSE RENT
SO IF YOU THINK OF ALL THE MONEY HE'S PAID SO FAR, IT'S FINE DON'T YOU THINK SO?
HE'S TOO BLOCK HEADED!!

HAHA, BUT YOU CAN BE PRETTY STUBBORN TOO,
ONCE YOU'VE SET YOUR MIND ON SOMETHING
OH FOR GOD'S SAKE!
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO SELL THE HOUSE!!

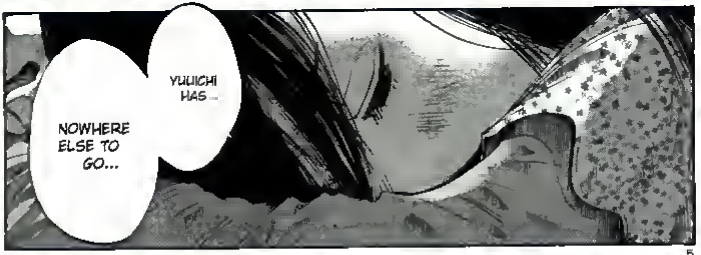

OH, THAT'S RIGHT
HOW WAS PUNPUN'S RESULTS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS?
WAS THAT TODAY?
WELL, I'M SURE THINGS TURNED OUT WELL

BUT HE'S SURE WORKED HARD
HE'S STUDIED AND STUDIED FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS
SURELY YOU'RE NOT DISAGREEING WITH MY CHILD REARING METHODS!
AHAHA!!

HA
HEY! MIDORI!?
IT'S ONLY BEEN 1 WEEK SINCE YUUICHI HASN'T COME HOME!

HE'S A GROWN MAN!!
WELL, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE BEST ATTITUDE OR PERSONALITY...
MAYBE HE'S STAYING OVER AT A FRIEND'S PLACE OR SOMETHING?
BUT YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!!

THAT MAN...
THAT'S TRUE
DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS ANYMORE


YUUICHI HAS...
NOWHERE ELSE TO GO...

WELL...
I MAY BE SPEAKING A BIT BLUNTLY BUT...

MAYBE THE AFTER-WORLD?

おやすみプンプン ❹
浅野いにお

背景アシスタント　鳥渕佑紀
　　佐藤五月
CGアシスタント　さいとうひさし
協力　くまつと
　　岩間康正
　　上原ゆう
　　久米貴史

SCANLATED BY HOX